



HISTORY
OF
VOLKSSPORTING
IN THE
U.S.A.
1976–1989

by

Charlene Agne-Traub, Ph.D., CHES

AVA Historian





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by Charlene Agne-Traub, Ph.D., CHES, AVA Historian

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PREFACE

History is a fascinating process by which individuals or groups can remember their past. While looking back with a certain pride on the accomplishments of the past is desirable, it is in looking ahead to the challenges of the future and learning from the past that makes any historical journey worthwhile. In compiling and writing the history of volkssporting in the United States, the author chose a topical approach that also kept chronology in mind.

Any historical endeavor requires the examination of pertinent literature. The author examined all issues of The American Wanderer and the AVA Newsletter. These two publications are the major publications of the American Volkssport Association, Inc. The American Wanderer is the bi-monthly publication of the AVA in the IVV and the AVA Newsletter is the official voice of the AVA and its elected officials. In addition to reviewing these publications the historian spent almost two weeks during the summer of 1988 at the National Office looking through documents and records and about a week during the spring of 1990 rechecking information. Photos of historical artifacts were obtained from newspapers or personal files of volkssporters. Also, many past and current officers were either interviewed or corresponded with seeking answers to specifically asked questions. The founding father of volkssporting in the United States was interviewed and the site of the first volksmarch was twice visited and walked by the Historian. The Historian has been an active participant in volkssporting since 1984 and has completed over 345 events and 5,200 kilometers in 37 states and six countries at the time of this writing. Since 1984 she has been an active member of her local club, the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers (AVA-151), and has held the position of recording secretary, vice-president, and president and currently serves as corresponding secretary. She is also a member of AVA-001 since 1988. For over twenty-three years she has been a promotor of physical activity in her profession as university professor of health education, physical education, and recreation. She is currently teaching at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She has numerous publications in professional journals and also has written

two editions of one book prior to undertaking this project.

Because history is a continuous process, there is no end to this document, only challenges and future goals to be met. Many people cooperated in this endeavor and the Historian would like to thank them for their assistance. Special thanks is given to the following for their direct help in this first edition: the "Founding Father" Kenn Knopp; Becky Lindig, member of AVA-001; former officers in IPS-USA and AVA, Lester Frantzen, Dr. Carol Coffee, Dr. David Toth and Don Vartanian; the staff of the National Office, especially Zina Lawrence, former Executive Director, and Leona Clark, former Awards and Records; Executive Council V and VI members, especially Tom Boyd, President, Julian Bauer, Treasurer, Liz Johnson, Secretary, and Preston Johnson, Northwest Regional Director. Grateful recognition is extended to Elisabeth H. Carroll for the professionally designed cover and title page. Personal thanks is especially given to my husband and companion volkssporter, Gary Traub, for providing support and printing assistance throughout this fascinating and challenging task.

Dr. Charlene E. Agne-Traub, Ph.D., CHES
Burke, Virginia,
Summer 1990

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CHAPTER ONE

WHAT IS VOLKSSPORTING?

The German term “volkssport” literally means a “sport of the people”. Anyone of any age can participate without any fees in walking (volksmarsches), bicycling (radfahren), swimming (volksschwimmen), or cross-country skiing (skiwandern) events. Volkssports are organized events designed to appeal to everyone, to people of all ages. More than adequate time is provided to complete the volkssport event. The event is not meant to be a contest of speed since participants set their own pace and need only to complete the event before the posted finish time. Volkssport events are held in all types of weather conditions unless a threat to personal safety or health exists.

One of the bonuses of volkssporting is that, even though you can participate for free, you can also receive an award along with IVV credit by paying a fee (maximum of \$6.00) at the registration table. Many people look upon this award as an incentive for participation and as a means of acknowledging completion of the event. Everyone who completes the volkssport event is a winner and receives his or her purchased awards. In addition to collecting awards, an individual may enroll in the International Achievement Awards Program under the auspices of the IVV (International Volkssportverband). The participant begins this International Achievement Awards Program by purchasing an IVV Event Record Book and/or an IVV Distance Record Book. The \$4.00 cost of each book covers the cost of the certificate, hat pin and patch that will be received from the National Office after completing the milestones in each book. The fee for receiving the IVV Certification Stamp in your book(s) upon completion of an event is a maximum of \$1.50. IVV Achievement Awards are earned for completing 10, 30, 50 events and every 25 events thereafter through 600 events. Awards are given for each additional 50 events through 2,400 events, then for each 100 events thereafter. Achievement Awards are

given for each 500 kilometers walked, biked, or skied through 8,000 kilometers. After 8,000 kilometers, awards are presented for each additional 1,000 kilometers completed through 50,000 kilometers, then for each 5,000 kilometers completed. Swimming earns only event credit, not distance credit. There is no time limit for completing these books and they are honored world-wide for IVV-sanctioned events.

All sanctioned volkssport events in the U.S. are conducted through non-profit clubs or organizations chartered by the American Volkssport Association.

Volksmarches are the most popular of the volkssports events. They are planned walks or hikes that must be at least 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) long, which is classified as a short distance. Medium (20K), long (30K), and marathon (42K) distances are also occasionally provided. Participants go at their own pace, walking, jogging or running over the marked trail in rural or urban environments.

Volksmarching is good exercise and encourages outdoor physical activity for people of all ages. Since volksmarches are noncompetitive events, everyone who completes the event is a winner.

Bicycling (or Radfahren) events are rides over marked streets or bikeways normally covering distances of 25 to 50 kilometers. Like all volkssports events, participants go at their own pace but, in most cases, must provide their own bicycles. Occasionally bike events are begun at a bicycle shop where participants can rent bicycles if they are unable to bring their own.

Skiwandern are cross-country skiing events of 10 or 20 kilometers. These events take place on marked trails and, if the weather does not provide the necessary snow, the club is often able to conduct the event as a walk since the distance requirement for either event is the same.

Volksschwimmen are swims covering distances of at least 300 meters. Participants may use any combination of swimming strokes at any pace. In addition, they can rest during the event at reasonable intervals but the participant must remain in the water. This is the only volkssport event where the participant can only earn IVV event credit, not distance credit. (More than 30 volksswims would need to be performed to equal the distance of one volksmarch.)

CHAPTER TWO

ROOTS FROM THE IVV

Volkssports evolved from public running races (volkslauf) sponsored by sporting clubs in southern Germany. In 1963, the Sport Club of Bobingen, a small town near Augsburg, Germany, organized the first volkslauf, or run of the people, to stir interest in the club among the general public. Time limits were set over a prearranged course and winners were the ones who came in with the best times. The idea caught on quickly in Bavaria. Within a couple of years volkslaufs were being sponsored by sports clubs throughout southern Germany (TAW, Feb. 1981, p. 9). However, the push to win led many unfit individuals to run in races without proper conditioning. Awards to the top finishers in each age and distance category encouraged people to over-stress themselves, hoping to win an award (TAW, 1981). After some years of fierce competition, many injuries and some deaths resulted due to cardiovascular collapse.

Interest in volkslauf began to decline almost as rapidly as it had become popular. By 1965 fewer and fewer people participated. The major reason for declining interest was the participation by professional and Olympic athletes who were winning most of the prizes. The public was unhappy about the professional encroachment as well as the shift to a severely competitive nature of the events. Participation in outdoor sports without the pressure of competition was the major goal for the non-professional athlete. On January 14, 1968, six clubs from Germany, two clubs from Switzerland, and one club each from Liechtenstein and Austria banded together and changed the rules to give everyone the opportunity to participate and be a winner (Volkmer, 1985). These charter members first attempted to join the existing German Leichtathletik Union (DLV) to increase the visibility of a new kind of wandering without classification, obligatory times, and rivalry.

However, the DLV did not wholeheartedly accept this new group and called the participants of this new movement "Spaziergaenger" or walkers (IVV, 1988, p. 15). William Bartholdt, Jr., may be one of the first Americans to have participated in a volksmarch sponsored by the DLV. Mr. Bartholdt sent the Historian a copy of the brochure from the event on April 21, 1968, in Hohemark, Germany. Anyone could have walked the 12K mountain volksmarch that started at 7:30 a.m. from the Hotel Altkonig Blick. According to the brochure, "everyone who reaches the finish on the Feldberg peak in two and one-half hours will receive the tastefully designed volksmarch medal on a ribbon for 5DM" (DLV brochure, April 21, 1968, p. 3).

Primarily because of the finishing time requirements, a need existed to establish a separate organization that would promote non-competitive events, so the IVV was formed. The national colors of the four founding countries were shown in the official IVV banner. These charter members established the International Federation of Popular Sports (Internationaler Volkssportverband, IVV), whose new rules eliminated the time limitations. Everyone who completed the event was to receive an award for participation. The city of Lindau, West Germany, on the beautiful Bodensee was the location for this cooperative effort among the four countries.

By 1969 fifteen volksmarches had been held in southern Bavaria. These were the first volksmarches as we know them today using the non-competitive format. "Urban-dwellers welcomed the opportunity to get a little exercise on weekends, to breathe some fresh country air in an unpressured atmosphere and receive recognition for their efforts" (AVA, Sept. 1988, p. 9).

Since the establishment of the IVV in 1968, 17 nations have become members and are now participating in volkssports. They are Germany, Austria, Switzerland/Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg, Denmark, Italy, South Tyrol, France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Great Britain, United States, Canada, and Finland. In addition to these member nations, clubs in Greece, Spain, Israel, Turkey, Ireland, and Malta sponsor volkssporting events. These clubs report and are directly responsible to the IVV because their countries do not yet have national organizations (see Appendix C). The IVV originally sponsored only volksmarches, but now other sporting events are included: bicycling (radfahren), swimming (volksschwimmen), and cross-country skiing (skiwandern) (AVA, 1980, p. 2). In 1989 world-

* Switzerland and Liechtenstein are one federation within the IVV.

wide statistics showed 4,700 member clubs in the many nations, sponsoring 5,600 IVV events and having 15 million participants registered.

According to the Constitution of the IVV, the goals of the Association are:

- 1) To encourage public health through a non-competitive, outdoor sports program;
- 2) To contribute toward peace and understanding among nations by fostering international friendship through volkssports (IVV Constitution, 1981, p. 1).

The purpose of the Association is to conduct non-competitive popular sports events, and in particular:

- 1) Unite national volkssport associations while fully recognizing their legal and economic independence, and to stimulate and to mutually support their work through the constant exchange of ideas and experiences;
- 2) Authorize member organizations to grant the IVV Achievement Award to individuals in recognition of their repeated participation in volkssport events (IVV Constitution, 1986, p. 1).

In addition, the IVV is a non-profit organization with "no political, racial or ideological orientations. The Association, by promoting volkssports, pursues exclusively, directly and selflessly the public welfare" (IVV Statutes and By-Laws, May 3, 1986, p. 1).

The most active American volksmarcher who provided the Historian with documentation of his early European participation was Hal Witter, now an active member of AVA-332. Major Witter, U.S. Army Retired, started at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in September 1970. He earned the reputation as the "March Master of Bavaria" and completed almost 300 events while in Europe. The IVV selected Witter to lead the American delegation of marchers on a special six-day, 150-mile march held in conjunction with the 1972 Olympics at Munich (Pettengill, Sept. 20, 1972, p. 19).

CHAPTER THREE

USA AND IPS (INTERNATIONAL PEOPLES' SPORTS)

Volkssporting made its debut in the United States on June 12-13, 1976 in Fredericksburg, Texas, as part of the celebration of the Bicentennial of American Independence. This event was made possible by the efforts of the "founding father of volkssporting in the U.S.", the Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp, a Catholic deacon from Fredericksburg, Texas.

Rev. Mr. Knopp attended a church meeting in Rome, Italy, in 1975. After the meeting he went to Germany to visit his elderly aunt and uncle who really loved to walk. They took him around town and to the local church. Kenn was in his early 40's, but overweight and out of shape and the walking wore him out. His aunt and uncle told him he really needed to do something about his health condition and that regular walking was the best all-around thing to do. They told him about the walking club in the town and showed him a poster promoting the IVV. Kenn took down the name, address, and phone number of the club listed on the poster and called them. That club referred him to the IVV President, Mr. Gunther Hartmetz who lived in Geggendorf near Stuttgart (Kenn Knopp Interview, June 25, 1988).

First Volksmarch in U.S.A.

Upon Kenn's return to the U.S., he wrote to Mr. Hartmetz about putting on a walk in Fredericksburg as part of the celebration of the American Bicentennial. Kenn was on the town's bicentennial committee, in charge of heritage. "He wanted to do something good for the community and that would also tie in the German roots of the town."

He also felt it would be beneficial to the health of himself and others. He put a notice in the local paper that a volkssport club was organizing and a volkssport festival was being planned for the community. Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Hahne and their son Cliff were among the small group of people who responded to the newspaper notice. The Fredericksburg local club that conducted the first volksmarch was named Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (VVF).

It was this small group of club members, under its President Louis Loth, that conducted the first walk (volksmarch) in the U.S.A. (Fredericksburg Standard, Fredericksburg, Texas, Wednesday, June 9, 1976). The walkfest was held on June 12 and 13, 1976, starting at the Vereinskirche, a historical landmark in a central location. Both 6- and 12-mile routes were planned by Kenn Knopp to begin at the Vereinskirche in the Pioneer Plaza. (See Figures 3.1 - First Walkfest Trail Routes & 3.2 - First Brochure.) The shorter 6-mile route wound its way through city streets using the Llano Highway to Morning Glory Drive and back to the Vereinskirche. The longer 12-mile route covered most of the shorter route plus Lower and Upper Crabapple Roads around Enchanted Rock and Bear Mountain. (See Figure 3.3 - Photo of Final Mile of First Walkfest, Downhill Approaching Town - Radio Post photo by N.J.D.) The walk was mainly along a beautification project intended to create foot paths for the community. This first IVV-sanctioned volksmarch in North America had 230-235 participants with Coralie May and Raynell Massey, the last two walkers. (See Figure 3.4 - Photo of Last Two Walkers at First Walkfest Receiving T-shirts from Kenn Knopp - Radio Post photo.) In addition some walkers decided to purchase the walkfest medallions. (See Figure 3.5 - Photo of First U.S.A. Walkfest Gold and Silver Medallions - Radio Post photo by Bob Harper.)

IPS-First Governing Body of Volkssporting in U.S.A.

Rev. Mr. Knopp had arranged the sanctioning almost a year in advance without the benefit of ever participating in a volksmarch in Germany. He only had the advice of the participants that he had met in Germany and the directions of Mr. Hartmetz. It was only after conducting the first walk in the U.S.A. that Kenn was able to return to Germany to do a volksmarch to learn more about this exciting activity.

First "Texas Walk Fest"
 INTERNATIONAL PEOPLES' SPORTS-USA
 211 W. Main Street
 Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
 1-512-997-4517

Saturday, June 12 &
 Sunday, June 13
 — 1 9 7 6 —

"A U.S. Bicenennial Event"



IPS-USA IS A
 MEMBER OF THE
 INTERNATIONALER
 VOLKSPORT
 VERBAND e.V

WALK FEST ROUTES

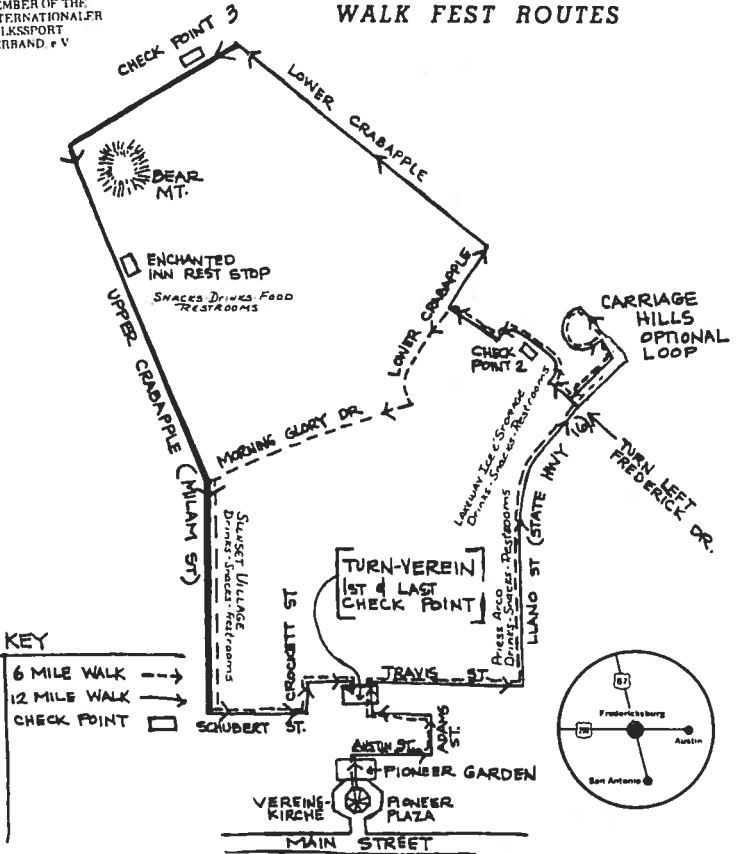


Figure 3.1

First Walkfest Trail Routes. (Courtesy of Archival Records of IPS-USA kept by Lester Frantzen, former officer of AVA, and Kenn Knopp, "founding father".)

Welcome to "Friedrichsburg" Capital of Texas Germania

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the ancestors of the citizens of our community participated in regular "wanderung" or walks through the European forests and countryside for the purposes of recreation, health and fellowship, and,

WHEREAS, the countryside around Fredericksburg is more than abundantly blessed with God's most creative and spectacular scenery which visitors from afar, as well as the home folks, should appreciate even more, and,

WHEREAS, the International Volkssportverband of Germany and its local affiliate The International Peoples Sports - U.S.A. Inc., are both non-profit, volunteer groups striving to promote fitness and leisure outings, and,

WHEREAS, the First Walk Fest in the U.S.A. particularly significant because of the Nation's Bicentennial celebration has been scheduled in Fredericksburg for June 12-14, 1976, and

WHEREAS, I am urging our citizens to sign up for the Walk Fest and to take part in the walk of their choice and to attend the Old Fashioned Dance, Saturday, June 12th at the Turner Hall, therefore

BE IT KNOWN BY ONE AND ALL, that I, Suines M. Henke, Mayor of Fredericksburg, officially welcome all comers in the spirit of our traditional "Gemeinlichkeit" to our city and hereby proclaim Saturday, June 12th and Sunday, June 13th 1976 as WALK FEST WEEKEND IN FREDERICKSBURG"

WITNESSES

Hermee Seipp, City Clerk
City of Fredericksburg

Suines M. Henke, Mayor
City of Fredericksburg



Freie Kirche

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION - Start & Finish

(CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE)

Pioneer Plaza, Downtown Fredericksburg
Walk Participants Admitted Free to
"Old-Fashioned Dance", Turner Hall,
9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, June 12.
All Others \$1.50 per person. BYOB.
Music by The Hill Country Boys.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

(an accredited event approved by IVV, International Volkssportverband e.V.)

Sponsor: International Peoples Sports-USA 211 W. Main St. Fredericksburg, Tex. 76231 Louis Loeb, President
Place: Fredericksburg, Texas. The event will take place regardless of weather.

Start & Finish: Vereinskirche, Pioneer Plaza downtown Fredericksburg.
Starting Time: Any time between 6 AM and 1 PM either day. Early time chosen to include Texas Hill Country sunrise for those who are interested.

Finishing Time: Final Stamp on Participant's Card will not be made after 5 PM on Friday.

Eligibility: All are welcome. Walk at your own pace and pleasure. Start with others along the way. Participant's Card is to be surrendered for IVV medal stamps at start, half-way, and finish points. Children under 7 are allowed only with adults. Hours will be clearly marked. Late starters will be 25, and

Awards: 3-Mile Walk, gold Medalion; 12-Mile Walk, gold Medalion. Women 55 years of age or older, men 60 years of age or older, children under 10, and disabled persons receive gold medals for either walk or silver medals for two optional walks.

Special Prizes: The lowest pre-registered group with 10 or more, the team traveling the farthest, person and group, or family, winning the farthest, the oldest woman, the oldest man, and others will receive special prizes upon completion of their walks.

Pre-Registration: The registration fee is paid in advance by check or money order no later than May 22 for "Texas Walk Fest" - \$1 per person desiring souvenir medalion and official IVV stamp and record for \$1.50 per person for official IVV stamp and record, but no medalion. Include each person's name, address, age, and phone or fax and walking distance when mailing in Pre-Registration. No refund for no-show.

Late Registration: \$1 per person extra if not pre-registered by May 22. Those who register after May 22, or on day of event may have to receive medals later by mail.

Refreshments: Each participant receives a free decaffeinated drink at start and during the walk. Food and drinks will be sold at various locations. Participants may want to bring backpacks. Excellent picnic areas nearby. Fredericksburg is noted for many fine and interesting restaurants.

Medical Support: First Aid and emergency services will be at the trails. This latter - The sponsors of the Walk Fest cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen items, accidents or injuries at any time.

Parking: Ample in and around area of start and finish, Pioneer Plaza.
Lodging: Communicate your exact lodging needs when pre-registering, and include self-addressed stamped envelope if reply or confirmation is requested.

THIS FOLDER PROVIDED COURTESY OF

<p>FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS OF AUSTIN FREDERICKSBURG OFFICE</p> <p>310 E. Hauptstrasse - Unterstadt</p>
<p>Das Glockenspiel Restaurant -- GUTES ESSEN --</p> <p>151 E. Hauptstrasse - Unterstadt</p>
<p>Freundschaftsshop-Galerie GIFTS, BOOKS, CARDS, FINE ART FRIENDSHIP SHOP AND GALLERY 211 WEST HAUPTSTRASSE - OBERSTADT</p>
<p>SUNSET VILLAGE DRIVE-IN GROCERY "A FRIENDLY COUNTRY STORE" HOMEMADE POUND CAKES - BEEF JERKY - COLD DRINKS PICNIC SUPPLIES - FISHING EQUIPMENT 816 NORTH MILAM</p>

Figure 3.2

First Brochure. (Courtesy of Archival Records of IPS-USA kept by Lester Frantzen, former officer of AVA, and Kenn Knopp, "founding father".)



Figure 3.3

Final Mile of First Walkfest, Downhill Approaching Town. (Courtesy of Mrs. N.J. Dietel, Fredericksburg, Texas, Radio Post Photo, 6/17/1976.)



Figure 3.4

Last Two Walkers at First Walkfest Receiving T-shirts From Kenn Knopp.
(Courtesy of Mrs. N.J. Dietel, Fredericksburg, Texas, Radio Post Photo.)

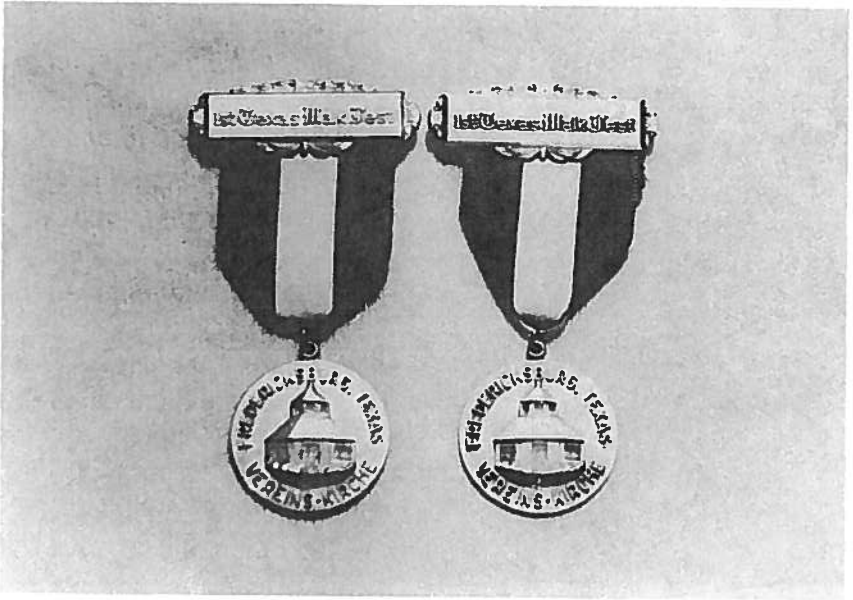


Figure 3.5

First U.S.A. Walkfest Gold & Silver Medallions. (Courtesy of Mrs. N.J. Dietel, Fredericksburg, Texas, Radio Post Photo.)

It was on April 20, 1976, that the IPS-USA was incorporated in Texas with charter number 379672. (See Figure 3.6 - IPS-USA Certificate of Incorporation by State of Texas.) To be true to the German organization's name of IVV (Internationaler Volkssportverband, which translates to International Federation of Popular or Peoples' Sports), Kenn decided to call the United States governing body the IPS-USA which stands for International Peoples' Sports-United States of America (Kenn Knopp interview, June 1988). The IVV accepted it as the national organization of volkssporting in the U.S.A. with associate member status on April 30, 1976. IVV President Gunther Hartmetz "notified the Fredericksburg group that they will serve as the regulatory body to oversee the development of additional Walk Fests and walk organizations in Texas as well as the other states. In this way, dates will not conflict and the accredited walks will be set up in an orderly way." (See Figure 3.7 - IVV Membership Certificate issued to IPS-USA.) Louis Loth of Fredericksburg was elected first President of IPS-USA (VVF Newsletter, June 1989) and Kenn Knopp became the National Coordinator.

National Expansion in 1977 and 1978

The second IVV-sanctioned event held in the United States took place in June 1977 in Fredericksburg, Texas. This Texas walkfest saw 840 participants, almost four times the number of participants in the same town the year before (TAW, January 1978, p. 1). Cliff Hahne of Fredericksburg was elected the second president of the IPS-USA (VVF Newsletter, 1989).

Volkssporting needed to spread beyond the Fredericksburg, Texas area. To assist in the promotion, Rev. Mr. Knopp developed and became the Editor of The American Wanderer, the newspaper of the IPS-USA. Even though Kenn was actively involved from the beginning, his name never appeared as Editor until 1981. The first issue was published in January 1978. (See Appendix D.) It was in January 1978 that President Cliff Hahne invited "interested enthusiasts to form a leadership group which would reflect the interests of more sections of the country. . . . A special meeting would be arranged . . ." (TAW, January 1978, p. 1).

An organizational meeting for the purpose of the IPS-USA becoming a full member of the IVV and holding a Constitutional Convention was held in Fredericksburg. Attending were Gerhard Bromberger, the IVV President, Gerd Pieper, IVV Liaison to English Speaking Coun-



The State of Texas
Secretary of State

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

INTERNATIONAL PEOPLES' SPORTS-USA, INC.
CHAPTER 1001003 878472

THE UNDERSIGNED, AS SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS,
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT DUPLICATES OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
FOR THE ABOVE CORPORATION, DULY FILED AND VERIFIED, HAVE BEEN RECEIVED
IN THIS OFFICE AND ARE FILED FOR RECORD TO LAW.

ACCORDINGLY THE UNDERSIGNED, AS SUCH SECRETARY OF STATE, AND BY
VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY LAW, HEREBY ISSUES THIS
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND ATTACHES HERETO A DUPLICATE ORIGINAL
OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

DATED APR. 22, 1972



Mark T. White Jr.
Secretary of State

DLU

Figure 3.6

IPS-USA Certificate of Incorporation by State of Texas. (Courtesy of AVA National Office Files.)

CONGRATULATIONS FREDERICKSBURG!

INTERNATIONALER VOLKSSPORTVERBAND
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SPORTS POPULAIRES
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF POPULAR SPORTS



Mitglieds-Urkunde

Der Verein

International Peoples' Sports-USA, inc.

in

Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

ist Mitglied des

Internationalen Volkssportverbandes

und hat die Mitgliedsnummer

USA -1-

D-8360 Deggendorf, 30.4.1976


Präsident

Figure 3.7

IVV Membership Certificate Issued to IPS-USA. (Courtesy of Archival Records of IPS-USA kept by Lester Frantzen, former officer of AVA, and Kenn Knopp, "founding father".)

tries, IPS-USA executive officers, and interested individuals from Texas, Ohio, Kentucky, and California (VVF newsletter, June 1989). IVV President Bromberger reminded IPS-USA that its status was associate membership. Full membership would be granted when IPS-USA had active representative member units in at least five states with functioning events (TAW, Nov, 1978, p. 2). When Florida joined Texas, Kentucky, Ohio and California, the IPS-USA qualified as a full member in the IVV (TAW, Nov. 1978, p. 4).

From the beginning in 1976 the IPS-USA served in the capacity as the national organization for volkssporting. By 1978 interest in the volkssport movement had spread to other parts of the nation and the need for the national coordination provided by IPS-USA was even more evident. The organization, by necessity, was informal and Kenn as "founding father" also served as National Coordinator. He appointed a president, a treasurer, and four vice-presidents. He organized the United States into four Regions, the Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest, with a vice-president as the representative of each Region. In addition, Kenn had the foresight to organize a special services department where items like T-shirts, pins, and patches could be sold to the public. Ron and Jane Woellhof served as the first Supervisors of Special Services (TAW, November 1978, p. 8).

Volkssporting in Ohio and Kentucky

About a year after Kenn Knopp got volksmarching started in Texas, Dr. David Toth was returning to Dayton, Ohio for assignment at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Dr. Toth was in the USAF Medical Corps and spent a few years in Germany where he became an active volkssporter. In 1977 he began organizing the Ohio Wander Freunde, which was officially founded in June 1978 as a member of both the IVV and the IPS-USA. The OWF became the first chartered IVV and IPS-USA club in the state of Ohio and conducted their first international walkfest on September 23, 1978 at Wright-Patterson (The Ohio Wanderer, July 1978, p. 2). This walk, commemorating the 75th anniversary of powered flight, had 394 participants from several states and two countries, Belgium and West Germany (TAW, November 1978, p. 3). The first sanctioned swimfest to be held anywhere in the U.S.A. took place September 28-30, 1978, at the Belmont Pool in Dayton, Ohio. The event drew over 200 participants and was sponsored by the Dayton Riverdale Volkssport Association (now AVA-010 and called the Dayton Walking Club) and the City of Dayton Recrea-

tion Division (TAW, November 1978, p. 3).

Kentucky was also active through the efforts of Colonel Everett Thomas at Fort Knox. Their first sanctioned international walkfest was held on September 16-17, 1978 (Knopp Interview, 1988 and The Ohio Wanderer, July 1978).

First Amerikaflug-European Volkssporters Come to U.S.A.

Fredericksburg, Texas played host to the third sanctioned volks-march event in the USA in 1978. (See Figure 3.8 - Photo of Kenn Knopp Registering Walkers, photo appeared in TAW June 1978, p.6.) Nearly 1,000 pre-registered for the 1978 walkfest including almost 177 IVV members from Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. These international participants were the first Amerikaflug, a charter tour group from Europe to the U.S.A. (Frantzen interview, June 1988; TAW, June 1978, 1; VVF newsletter, June 1989). IVV President Bromberger of Kaufbeuren and IPS-USA Liaison Gerd Pieper of Waldboeckelheim, West Germany were among the international guests who spent two weeks in Texas. This visit by the IVV to Fredericksburg was also historic in that it occurred on the tenth anniversary of the founding of the IVV. The June 1978 issue of The American Wanderer carried the IVV President's special address, where Bromberger stated:

I was also a founder of the IVV when it was first organized and I am happy to be serving as the international president. Having grown with the original IVV group from its very beginnings in Europe, it is very pleasing to me that I am now also able to witness the beginnings of the IVV goals and experience in the U.S.A. The German pioneer spirit of Fredericksburg, founded many years ago by German settlers, has even today blossomed into a fine city. I am overwhelmed and assured that from here the right kind of people will do their best to develop the concept of the Peoples' Sport movement so that the entire U.S.A. can come to know the pleasures and brotherhood that results. . . . (p. 1 & 4)

The Europeans were wearing a patch that read "Amerika-Flug, IPS 1978 DVV" which translates to "American Flight IPS (International Peoples' Sports) 1978 German Peoples Organization (DVV)." (See Figure 3.9 - Photo of Amerika-Flug Patch IPS-78-DVV.) A record



Figure 3.8

Kenn Knopp Registering Walkers. (Courtesy of AVA-001, Volkssportsverein Friedrichsburg Scrapbook kept by Lester Frantzen.)



Figure 3.9

Amerika-Flug Patch, IPS-78-DVV. (Patch Courtesy of Lester Frantzen, Photo Courtesy Keller Studio, October 1990.)

number of 1,340 people participated in this third walkfest through the Gillespie County hills. European George Kraft was the oldest participant at 87 and he walked the 8-mile route both days (Fredericksburg Standard, Wed., June 21, 1978).

The chairman of this most successful third walkfest was Lester Frantzen, but his success was based on the earlier achievements of the Hahne and Knopp families. Father Elbert Hahne and Rev. Mr. Knopp had done much of the work for the first walkfest in 1976. In 1977, Elbert's son Cliff coordinated the second walkfest. Cliff's interest was initiated by a chance meeting between Cliff's brother-in-law, Temple Klett, a native Fredericksburger, stationed at a West German Air Base with West German Air Force Captain Gerd Pieper, who through Klett heard of the first Texas walk event (Donalson, Fredericksburg Radio Post, 1978). These coincidental happenings paved the way for the growth of volkssporting in Texas and the United States.

Americans enjoyed the visits by Europeans to the U.S.A. and wanted to reverse the direction. Over the years IVV wanderers organized many trips to IVV events in other countries. The IPS-USA provided a travel service which promoted "wander trips" to Germany and the Ohio Wander Freunde also planned a trip to Belgium and Germany in these early years. Most of these walking tours included some sightseeing along with scheduled IVV events, thus striving to fulfill an IVV Charter goal of promoting "peace and understanding among nations by fostering international friendships through volkssports" (IVV Constitution, 1981, p. 1).

CHAPTER FOUR

BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION (AVA) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL I -- 1979-1981

AVA 1st Biennial Convention

June 15-17, 1979, was set as the date for the gathering of the first national convention of volkssporters in the U.S.A. (See Figure 4.1 - Agenda: First National Convention IPS-USA.) "Dignitaries from all over the IVV world . . . will gather to formally designate IPS-USA as a full member of the IVV and, as such, a solely independent body in the United States" (TAW, April 1979, p. 1). Dayton, Ohio, played host to this meeting and the sessions took place in the auditorium of the Glen Helen Building. Attending this meeting were representatives from Texas, Ohio, Kentucky, California, and Florida, IVV President Bromberger, and Gerd Pieper, IVV Liason to English-speaking countries. These officers of the IVV were able to attend since the convention was planned to coincide with an Amerikaflug visit by European volkssporters, who visited Texas and Ohio.

The purpose of the convention was to: 1) ratify a constitution, 2) elect national officers, 3) consider a name change, and 4) fulfill requirements to become a member nation of the IVV. In regards to the first item, two constitutions were proposed with the results being a consolidation of the two into the constitution we have today (OWF Wandl, 1983, p. 5). The formidable task of drafting the constitution turned out to be a marathon meeting starting at 4 PM and finishing at 2 AM. Under the able leadership of Ron Ackerman, "the first American in Europe honored for outstanding contributions to the IVV," (TAW, Nov. 1978, p. 5) a constitution was written modeled after the IVV Constitution. Election of officers and selection of staff took place. The names of the personnel are listed in Appendix B.

According to Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp, it was very important to

AGENDA
FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION IPS-USA

1. The National Convention will begin at 1600 hours on 16 June 1979. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium of the Glen Helen Building. The parliamentary authority for this meeting will be Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.
2. Opening of the Meeting:

Opening remarks: Cliff Hahne - President IPS-USA
Gerd Pieper - IVV Liasion to IPS
Gerhard Bromberger - President IVV

Nomination of Convention Chairman - Cliff Hahne
Vote on Convention Chairman - membership
Nomination of Convention Secretary (CS) by Convention Chairman (CC)
Vote on Convention Secretary - membership
3. Explanation of Meeting's Purpose
Reading of the Call of the Meeting - CS
Explanation of Purpose - CC
Resolution to Accomplish the Purpose - Arranged in Advance
(resolution will be in writing and all delegates will have a copy)
4. Report of the Credentials Committee
5. Introduction of the Proposed Constitution
Presentation by Chairman Constitution Committee - John Weaver
Discussion and Amendments
Vote on the Constitution
6. Recess to Enroll Members - CS
7. Reading of the Roll of Charter Members - CS
8. Report by Officers
President - Cliff Hahne
Vice Presidents

-Treasurer - Elbert Hahne. *WILL NOT BE THERE*

Materials - David Toth
AWARDS - RONALD ACKERMANN
Standards - Eleanor Holmok

← Coordinator - Ken Knopp
9. Election of Officers
Report of Nominating Committee
Presentation of Nominees
Nominations from the floor
Vote on each Officer (in turn)

Figure 4.1.

This is a typed facsimile of original agenda. Quality of the original agenda is poor.

10. New Business
 - a) Discussion of By Laws/General Rules
 - b) Business from the floor
 - c) Adjournment

11. Buffet Meal - Terrace of the Glen Helen Building

Figure 4.1. (continued)

This is a typed facsimile of original agenda. Quality of the original agenda is poor.

Germany that the interests of Texas and Ohio be combined into a concerted volkssporting movement. Therefore, Kenn agreed to set up a meeting with Dayton, Ohio, and their main representative Dr. David Toth. Kenn indicated that other clubs were expressing interest in volkssporting as evidenced by 19 sanctioned events planned in 11 states for 1979. (See Appendix E.) Things were beginning to happen and the time was right for a national meeting.

From IPS to AVA

At the meeting some of the participants raised objections to the current name of the organization, namely, IPS (International People's Sports). IPS-USA was originally selected since it is the most exact translation of the German term "IVV" or International Federation of Popular (Peoples') Sports. For Kenn, who has strong German roots, and for the town of Fredericksburg, which was settled primarily by Germans, the choice of IPS seemed the most appropriate (Knopp interview, 1988). However, as more and more participants were coming from the ranks of US servicemen who were introduced to volkssporting in Germany, and were now back on American soil, they felt the organization should have a name that better reflected this country. The letter from President Cliff Hahne to all national, regional, district, and state officers and club presidents suggested "American Popular Sports Association." The name was changed to the American Volkssport Association "so that the American organization would not be confused with the umbrella or central organization, the International Federation of Popular (Peoples') Sports", IVV (TAW, August 1979, p. 1).

Since the IVV President was in attendance at the convention, a petition was drafted to apply for membership in the IVV and given to President Bromberger in person. He accepted on behalf of the IVV, thereby establishing the AVA as a member nation of the IVV. The first U.S.A. certification stamp was issued at the Glen Helen Walk, which took place on the weekend of the convention (OWF Wandi, 1983, p. 5). (See Figure 4.2 - Certificate of Award From 1st AVA Walk Held at Glen Helen, Ohio.) The Glen Helen Walk was sponsored by the Dayton Riverdale Volkssport Association (AVA-010) and the Glen Helen Association. Prior to official member status as a nation, the IPS-USA was considered an associate member and all events were issued stamps that indicated IVV where the current "USA" now appears. With the establishment of the AVA, the United States could now schedule and

Dayton/Riverdale



volkssport, assoc.

certificate of award

George Henderson

has participated in

 INTERNATIONAL
VOLKSSMARCH

Glen Helen

and completed a course of 20 K ms.



16 JUNE 1979
DATE

John Wewer
PRESIDENT



MEMBER OF OHIO WANDER FREUNDE and I.V.V.

Dayton/Riverdale
volkssport, assoc.

Figure 4.2.

Certificate of Award From 1st AVA Walk Held at Glen Helen, Ohio.
(Courtesy of George Henderson, Member of EC I, IV, & V.)

approve volkssport events without the direct approval of the IVV for each event. This independence is true for every member nation. Nevertheless, all national organizations must follow the rules established by the IVV.

The first AVA Constitution established Fredericksburg, Texas, as the National Headquarters with Kenn Knopp as Coordinator. "The primary function of the national office includes encouraging and qualifying new clubs, sanctioning events, issuing The American Wanderer, and facilitating activities and communications of officers, members, and clubs. Auxiliary services . . . and travel services . . . are also a part of present functions in the national office" (TAW, August 1979, p. 1).

Procedures and Policy Development

In the January 1980 issue of The American Wanderer, requests for submissions of designs for an official logo, seal, or crest were made. Lester Frantzen headed the selection committee (p.11). Forty-two entries were received and during the year TAW featured the top three versions, with the one appearing on the November 1980 TAW as the final selection. (See Figure 4.3 - Changing Logos of the Association.) The reader will notice that through July 1980 there were five events illustrated on the masthead: bicycling, swimming, walking, jogging/running, and cross-country skiing. Beginning in November only four events were illustrated with the deletion of jogging/running. The order and illustration design of each event was also changed. The November-December 1989 masthead is basically the same as in November 1980, except each event's logo has been enlarged and a square outline has replaced a circular outline. The style of print for the title of TAW also changed.

Volkssports Promotional Endeavors

In the early years the challenge existed of sharing volkssporting with others. Public relations efforts needed information in a published format to help spread the word about volkssporting. The American Wanderer existed and was doing a good job of reporting news as it happened, but a concise booklet explaining what events are, how to establish a club, etc., was needed. AVA Vice-President Nelson Harborth developed and wrote such a booklet entitled "Volkssporting" What's It All About? for public distribution (TAW, Feb. 1981, p. 8).

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Number 8

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Figure 4.3.
Changing Logos of the Association. (*TAW*, January, April, & July 1980 mastheads.)

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THE AMERICAN WANDERER



Vol. 12, Number 6

Publication of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) in the International Federation of Popular Sports (IFV)

Nov-Dec. 1989

Figure 4.3.

Changing Logos of the Association. (*TAW*, November 1980 & November-December 1989 mastheads.)

AVA and Other National Organizations

The beginning of a working relationship with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports began with the attendance of AVA President Toth and AVA Secretary Weaver at an annual meeting of the President's Council in February 1980 in Washington, D.C. President David Toth and Secretary John Weaver heard Jimmy Carter, our 39th President, speak to the opening session. The AVA was able to describe its program in various workshops and the program was met with enthusiasm by representatives of parks and recreation, education, medicine, and industry. "The conference attendees were particularly interested in the 'leisure sports' aspects of the AVA program which do not require extensive training or special equipment, and the community involvement aspects which results in camaraderie and fellowship in addition to health of spirit and body" (TAW, April 1980, p. 1). The relationship with the President's Council continues today.

Growth

The years 1979 and 1980 brought many changes for this new organization. New states and new clubs were continually being added to this growing movement. Some walkfests were even attracting famous people such as Lady Bird Johnson, former First Lady, and her daughter Lynda Johnson Robb who were among the almost 2,000 participants at Fredericksburg, Texas in June 1979 (TAW, August 1979, p. 1 & 2). (See Figure 4.4. - Lady Bird Johnson, Walkfest Participant.)

First Cross-Country Ski Event

On February 2, 1980 the first IVV sanctioned snow-skifest was held in Fraser, Colorado. The Rocky Mountains Wanderers of Denver sponsored the event held at the Devil's Thumb Cross-Country Ski Center. "Over 40 hearty skiers took part in this first ski event with the award for the oldest participant going to Ev and Lucy McCorkle from Lakewood, Colorado" (TAW, April 1980, p. 10). Since recognition is appreciated by most people, by the end of 1980 TAW began printing the names of individuals and their distance and event accomplishments, a practice which continues today (TAW, November 1980, p. 6).



Figure 4.4.

Lady Bird Johnson (5th from the left), Walkfest Participant. *(Photo Courtesy of Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, Fredericksburg, Texas)*

Initiation of the First Year-Round Event

The first Year-Round Event was sanctioned for Fredericksburg, Texas, to allow visitors an opportunity to participate in a volksmarch any time they visited the National Headquarters. This event was called the AVA Pilgrimage Walk and still exists today. The European volkssporters enjoyed themselves in 1979, so 1980 brought a return trip. This Amerikaflug made a second visit to Fredericksburg, Texas, and a first trip to Colorado. Another expression of friendship was shown by the American clubs in Europe, who presented eleven giant IVV banners to the first eleven IVV clubs in the U.S.A. The purpose behind this gift was to make the IVV banner as common a sight at AVA events as it is in Europe (TAW, Jan. 1980, p. 10).

Double Wedding Bells at a Volkssport Festival

Two West German couples, Susanne Dippole and Waldemar Schreiner of Coburg and Rosemarie Masak and Hubert Kuechner of Bretten, were married in Fredericksburg, Texas, on June 14, 1980. In 1978 on a volkssporting trip from West Germany to Texas, the parties met. Originally, the couples were to be wed in Germany during the time the charter group was to go to Texas. Rather than cancel their volkssport reservation, the tour director made arrangements with Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp and Rev. E. L. Arhelger of Fredericksburg. Both couples were of mixed religion, Catholic and Lutheran. Both Rev. Mr. Knopp, with St. Mary's Catholic Church, and Rev. Arhelger, pastor of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, were avid volkssporters. With the approval of church officials in Germany and the U.S., they made arrangements for the ecumenical wedding service for the two couples in Fredericksburg during the volkssport festival weekend. Both Texas and German wedding customs were part of the celebration. The mayor (Burgermeister) of Fredericksburg declared the couples honorary citizens of the town (Ehrenbuerger Friedrichsburg). For 1980 over 200 volkssporters from Europe, along with the couples to be married, were coming to Texas on a charter trip to participate in another volkssport festival and to attend the weddings (Houston Chronicle, June 12, 1980).

First Night Volksmarch

The first evening walk in the U.S.A. was held on June 16, 1980, in Comfort, Texas, sponsored by the Hill Country Volkssportverein (AVA-023). The idea came about to show hospitality to the European volkssporters who were coming to America to participate in the Fredericksburg Volkssport Festival on June 14-15, 1980. Comfort, Texas, is just 20 miles south of Fredericksburg.

Volkssporting for the Handicapped

Volksmarching is an activity for young and old, able and disabled persons as evidenced by Miss Dawnelle Cruze, who is believed to have been the first totally blind person to have completed a scheduled and sanctioned IVV event in the U.S.A. Miss Cruze, from Portsmouth, Virginia, completed a 10 kilometer walk at the Naval Amphibious Base, Norfolk, Virginia, in April 1980. The walk was sponsored by the Gator Volksmarsch Club, Norfolk (TAW, July 1980, p. 1). The following year Miss Cruze received a special award after completing her third event during the Azalea Festival Volksmarsch in Norfolk on May 2-3, 1981. The Utopia Footprints Association of Texas was the first AVA club to indicate their intent to implement a special, scenic trail for handicapped individuals in 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons (TAW, July 1981, p. 14).

CHAPTER FIVE

GROWTH OF THE AVA AND VOLKSSPORTS IN THE U.S.A.

PART A: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL II--1981-1983

AVA 2nd Biennial Convention-Fredericksburg, Texas

The first two years (1979-1981) of the AVA saw substantial growth from approximately 17 clubs at the first convention to about 72 clubs by the second convention in June 1981 (OWF Wandi, Sept. 14, 1983, p. 5). Fredericksburg, Texas hosted the second AVA Biennial Convention from June 10-14, 1981. The main topic of the Convention was the adoption of Bylaws to the Constitution. In addition, the official recognition of state organizations was discussed and officially incorporated by the delegates. The election of officers took place with Dr. Carol Coffee becoming the second President of the AVA. All of the successful candidates are listed in Appendix B. Norfolk, Virginia was selected as the host city for the next (third) Convention, successfully securing the bid over the cities of St. Louis, Missouri; Omaha, Nebraska; and Vail, Colorado.

In the summer of 1981, newly elected AVA President Carol Coffee reported on the growth of volkssporting since 1976. Chartered clubs increased from one in 1976 (Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg) to 80 as of July 1981. Only one event took place in 1976 (Fredericksburg, Texas) and almost 150 events were scheduled for 1981 (TAW, July 1981, p. 5).

National Headquarters Moved to Universal City, Texas

The fall of 1981 brought some other major changes for the AVA. Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp resigned as National Coordinator and Editor of The American Wanderer for health reasons. In addition, the National Headquarters was moved to Universal City, Texas, which is located slightly north of San Antonio near Randolph Air Force Base. As noted in correspondence from AVA President Dr. Carol Coffee and AVA Secretary Heinz Johnson, the move was necessitated by the resignation of Kenn and the need for the day-to-day supervision and direction of the office by the newly elected Secretary Heinz Johnson (Coffee correspondence, September 9, 1981, & National Secretary's Report to EC II, December 4, 1981). Heinz was a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force stationed at Randolph Air Force Base. Four other officers of the AVA resided nearby. A month later in The American Wanderer, Dr. Coffee explained the "move was made for two reasons: Knopp's resignation and the successive loss of two offices in Fredericksburg. He emphasized that the legal residence of the AVA remains in Fredericksburg, Texas, as established in the AVA Constitution" (TAW, Oct. 1981, p. 1). However, in an interview with Lester Frantzen, whose office served as the home of IPS-USA and AVA, an amendment to the Constitution was processed through the mail in February 1983 that moved the legal residence to Universal City, Texas (Frantzen interview, June 25, 1988).

Kenn Knopp acted as National Coordinator on a volunteer basis for the first four and a half years of volkssporting in America until his health forced his resignation in 1981. The Executive Council realized how many important and varied tasks were under Kenn Knopp's responsibility as Coordinator and decided to assign oversight of the various functions of AVA administration, i.e. Budget and Finance (Accounting), Awards and Records, etc., to the AVA council members concerned with each function" (Coffee correspondence, Sept. 9, 1981). The decision "not to fill the vacated position of coordinator" was based primarily on inadequate finances at that time to hire a full-time coordinator. (Coffee correspondence, Sept. 9, 1981). However, Mr. E. Lloyd Murphy of Comfort, Texas, was asked and accepted the position of Editor of The American Wanderer (TAW). The American Wanderer was published quarterly at this time. TAW was the publication for the volkssporter, which in 1978 began reporting what and where events were happening in the U.S.A. Between 1981 and 1983 the Executive Council spread out the duties of an Executive Director until

finances allowed the hiring of a full-time person (TAW, Spring 1983, p. 1). The AVA hired Leon Childers, Jr., as its first full-time Executive Director. His duties began on March 1, 1983.

Volkssporting Expanded World-Wide - GLOBAL

June 6 and 7, 1981 was a momentous day for volkssporting world-wide with the beginning of the Air Force GLOBAL Event. The event would take place in a way and on a scale never conceived before. The plan was that "the first Air Force base west of the international date line will start the first volkswalk at sunrise June 6. Other bases in succession westward will start their events 'following the sun' until the entire globe of the world is circled" (TAW, April 1981, p. 1). The significance of this concept was given by Heinz Johnson in a letter to AVA President David Toth. "David, hold on to your seat because the American Volkssport movement is about to get a boost that may be unequalled for years to come. The Department of the Air Force has decided to sponsor a volksmarch as part of its 1981 program of worldwide sports championships and recreation contests. To be known as 'U.S. Air Force Volksmarch: GLOBAL I,' it will be a major event (open to the general public) in a special series of programs being offered at U.S. Air Force bases around the world this year in recognition of the 'Year of the Family'." (Johnson correspondence, January 23, 1981). Air Force officials designated Colonel Heinz Johnson as Director of Global I. At that time Heinz was also President of the Randolph Roadrunners Volkssport Club, San Antonio, and Assistant Director of Awards and Records of the AVA. Colonel Johnson reported that 106 U.S. Air Force installations and 24,000 people participated in Global I and over 125 installations planned to participate in Global II on September 25, 1982 (TAW, April 1982, p. 13).

The Air Force was not the only branch of the military that became "hooked" on volkssporting. The Department of the Army published a pamphlet, number 28-13, entitled Volksmarch Program that was issued in June 1982. The Welfare, Recreation and Morale Department, in charge of volkssporting on each base, designated September 19-25, 1982, as the Department of the Army Volksmarch Walk and encouraged each installation to conduct a walk that week (TAW, Summer 1982, p. 9).

Mexico and Volkssporting

The first "group of walkers from Mexico participated in an IVV-sanctioned event on October 23-24, 1981, in the Waring Walkfest sponsored by Comfort's Hill Country Volkssportsverein. Hosted by Dr. Marco Martinez, . . . the Monterey, Mexico group consisted of about 44 walkers from eight families. . . The group made the seven-hour trip to the San Antonio area 'to learn at first hand how a volksmarsch is conducted so they can run their own IVV-sanctioned walk in Monterey on June 26-27, 1982.' The Mexican walkers carried the Mexican flag" while participating in the Waring walk (TAW, October 1981, p. 2). The Monterey, Mexico, walk took place in June 1982 with 790 participants for the weekend.

Highest Volksmarch

The fall of 1981 brought an unusual event to volksmarching, the highest volksmarch in AVA history. The volksmarch was held in Vail, Colorado, at an altitude of 11,500 feet. The participants rode the gondola to the top of the mountain at Lionshead and hiked down through the golden aspen. The proceeds from this walk went to Vail Nature Center (TAW, Jan. 1982, p. 12).

AVA and Other National Organizations

Dr. Coffee continued the tradition of promoting volkssporting through participation at national meetings of appropriate organizations. October 24-28, 1981, found Dr. Coffee and a few other AVA personnel presenting an information program to the Annual Congress of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), meeting in Louisville, Kentucky (TAW, Fall 1982, p. 1). A year after this meeting, Dr. Coffee established a working committee to handle the relationship with NRPA and the AVA became an associate member of NRPA. In addition, five other committees were formed, namely: National Physical Fitness and Health; Global II; The Pilgrimage Event; Anheuser-Busch Sponsorship of AVA; Biennial Convention Planning.

Growth

By the end of Executive Council II's term of service the AVA had at least one club in all but 14 states. The 1983 calendar of events had a record of 325 scheduled events, nearly doubling the number originally scheduled for 1982. At the time of the first AVA Biennial Convention in 1979 there were 21 clubs, by the second AVA Biennial Convention in 1981 there were 75 clubs, and by the fall of 1982 there were 138 active clubs and two inactive (TAW, Fall 1982, p. 1).

GROWTH OF THE AVA AND VOLKSSPORTS IN THE U.S.A.

PART B: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL III--1983-1985

AVA 3rd Biennial Convention-Norfolk, Virginia

The third AVA Biennial Convention of the AVA was held in Norfolk, Virginia, from June 15-18, 1983. The convention hosts provided three walks and one swim event. Officers elected are listed in Appendix B. From the meeting of the delegates one important decision occurred that changed the election procedures for Regional Vice Presidents (later called Regional Directors). Starting in 1985 the Regional Vice President was elected by only the clubs in that Region and not by all clubs in the nation (OWF Wandl, Dec. 21, 1983, p. 5).

The fall of 1983 provided a continuation of the AVA Executive Council committees, begun under Dr. Coffee's leadership, plus the addition of three more committees: Long-Range Planning, Constitution and Bylaws, and International Tours. This new EC endorsed a policy adopted by the Ohio Volkssport Association concerning single routes. "If only a short route is offered, each participant is allowed to complete the course twice for the payment of a single registration fee and is counted as one participant in calculating the 'participant fee' which is due the AVA" (TAW, Fall 1983, p. 2).

Unfortunately, nine months after being hired, Executive Director Leon Childers resigned effective December 31, 1983. He accepted an opportunity in private enterprise. Until a new Director could be hired, Treasurer Nelson Harborth acted as Executive Director (TAW, Winter 1984, p. 1).

Volkssports Promotional Endeavors

Two major promotional events, Smokey Commemorative Project

and Walk for America, dominated 1984. The AVA issued a special commemorative award to remember the 40th birthday of Smokey the Bear and the USDA Forest Service. Tom Ogles, Jr., of Burke, Virginia, chaired the Smokey Project Committee, which supervised this celebration. The AVA's national commemorative event was held on May 5-6, 1984 at Great Falls, Virginia. All member clubs that conducted authorized events were eligible to issue certificates for the purchase of the approved award. Any club wanting to use Smokey or his logo was required to get approval per an AVA-USDA Forest Service agreement and federal licensing laws (TAW, Winter 1984, p. 1).

The Walk for America project was a 4,394 kilometer coast-to-coast walk designed to be completed in Los Angeles, California, a few days before the start of the 1984 Summer Olympics. Sixty-four days were being allowed for the completion of the walk with the U.S.A. being divided into four areas. The Walk for America was not an IVV sanctioned event, but the AVA supported this project and hoped that volksmarchers would participate (TAW, Winter 1984, p. 1).

The introduction of the first international volkssporting decathlon, called the Texas Ten, was on August 10-12, 1984, in San Antonio, Texas. The idea for this event came from Ron Ackerman and Heinz Johnson. The Randolph Roadrunners and the Selma Pathfinders sponsored this first Texas Ten consisting of four 10-kilometer walks, four 300-meter swims, and two 20-kilometer bike events over a three day period (TAW, Spring 1984, p. 5). In November 1985 the IVV changed the acceptable minimum distance of short routes for bicycle events to 25 kilometers (minutes of AVA-EC IV Feb. 15, 1986, meeting, p.10). The Texas Ten continues through today.

At the December 1, 1984, EC III meeting it was decided to print a "pocket-size" calendar of AVA events with the first issue scheduled for January 1985 distribution along with the AVA Newsletter. The first issue contained only the events from January through June 1985 (AVA Report of Dec. 1, 1984, EC III meeting, issued January 15, 1985, p. 2). The pocket calendar as a form of public information and publicity continued through June 1990.

Volkssporting for the Handicapped

Carol Lewie, Director of Standards and Evaluation, issued the AVA "policy concerning volkssport events and the physically and/or mentally challenged participants" on September 22, 1984 (AVA Handbook, Section 3-19, correspondence). The policy was long overdue since Miss

Dawnelle Cruze was the first known handicapped individual to participate in a volksmarch event in April 1980 at Norfolk, Virginia. All AVA events are open to everyone, but the policy encouraged clubs to indicate in their brochures and publicity whether the trail could be traversed by wheelchair and was open to individuals with support animals. Events under ten kilometers which are even more suitable for the handicapped may be offered, but these events are always incorporated into or with a sanctioned AVA walk or ski event of at least ten kilometers or a sanctioned swim of at least 200 meters. (Swims were later changed to a minimum of 300 meters.) Adequate control points, well marked trails, and attention to safety are standard requirements for AVA events. Clubs will mark the actual distance earned by the participant in the participant's IVV Distance Award Book. It is up to the participants to declare their handicap status and not for the club to judge their condition. Not all people wear braces or have support animals. Some disabilities are NOT VISIBLE (AVA Handbook, Section 3-19, correspondence).

Trail Rating System

Hedy Mulhausen, a member of Buckeye Wander Freunde, authored a proposal for an experimental trail-rating program to be used by the Ohio Volkssport Association (OVA) in 1984. The proposed rating system was based on the difficulty of the terrain and not the speed at which the participant must walk, as in bicycle ratings. Each club would judge their proposed trail and give it a number from one to five. Each number was given a description to be used as a criterion for assessment. For example, a trail rated two is considered "a moderately easy walk. Half on pavement, half in woods or fields or entirely in woods and fields. No significantly difficult hills" (C. Lewie correspondence, p. 1). If a trail were determined to fall between two of these numbers a + could be applied to the rating number. "Extreme weather conditions or rain could also raise the degree of difficulty" (C. Lewie correspondence, p. 1). Clubs were encouraged to use this proposed system and to forward their comments to OVA Long Range Planning Committee. On behalf of the AVA, Standards and Evaluation Director, Carol Lewie, thanked "the OVA for undertaking this challenge that many participants have asked to be implemented" (C. Lewie correspondence, "Volksmarch Degree of Ability Ratings", undated).

Growth

The volkssporting movement was continuing to grow and by the end of 1984 a club existed in every state except six: Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Idaho, Nevada, and Tennessee (TAW, Fall 1984, p. 1).

GROWTH OF THE AVA AND VOLKSSPORTS IN THE U.S.A.

PART C: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IV--1985-1987

AVA 4th Biennial Convention - St. Louis, Missouri

The fourth AVA Biennial Convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri, from June 12-15, 1985, at the Henry VIII hotel. Billy G. Herring was the Chairman of the Convention Planning Committee, whose theme was "Volkssports: Passport to Fun and Fitness." Thirteen events in two states were held during the convention week. Fredericksburg, Texas, was selected by the AVA convention delegates as the site for the planting of the Gingko tree given to the AVA by the IVV. The dedication would take place in 1986 in celebration of the tenth anniversary of volkssporting in the U.S.A. (See Figure 5.C.1 - A Gift From the IVV on the 10th Anniversary of Volkssports, a Gingko Tree.) The fourth AVA Biennial Convention also selected Tacoma, Washington over Sacramento, California as site for the 1987 AVA's fifth Biennial Convention.

Bicycle Distance Books

On June 12, 1985, the EC III met prior to the opening general session of the St. Louis Convention. During this meeting the issue of bike distance books was discussed. "Bike Distance Books (BDB) were recommended for introduction into the AVA and to become mandatory on 1 August 85. It was noted that within the IVV this program is optional for the member federations. Some felt that this was an excellent opportunity to correct the 'abuse of putting bike kilometers into the walk kilometer book' . . . It was the decision of the EC III that



Figure 5.C.1

A Gift From the IVV on the 10th Anniversary of Volkssports, a Ginkgo Tree. AVA President Max Martin, left of tree, & IVV President Horst Volkmer, right of tree. *(Courtesy of Fredericksburg, Texas, Standard-Radio Post newspaper)*

the use of the bike kilometer book/awards as an option with the individual participants begin as soon as possible, and that it become mandatory as of 1 January 1986" (AVA Report of June 12, 1985, EC III Meeting, issued July 10, 1985, p. 3).

In addition, Bicycle Distance Record Books (brown in color) were approved for use during the convention meeting of delegates, which represented 162 clubs. The brown books were to be optional until January 1986, when all distance from bike events were to be placed in bike distance books. The first bicycle award is at the 1,000 kilometer level (AVA Newsletter, July 1985). This bicycle policy would prove to be controversial and on July 27, 1985, subsequent to the Convention, the Regional Directors were asked to poll their members (AVA Report of July 27, 1985, EC IV Meeting, no issue date stated, p. 1). The polling reflected that the membership wanted to keep the Bike Distance Books as an optional choice, thereby allowing bicycle distance to be recorded in their blue distance books. Therefore, EC IV overturned the convention vote which made Bike Distance (Kilometer) Books mandatory after January 1, 1986, and instead kept it as an optional choice (AVA Newsletter, October 1985 & AVA Report of Oct. 5, 1985, EC IV Meeting, issued Oct. 10, 1985, p. 4).

Year-Round Events

The year 1985 began with the addition of two more Year-Round Walk events, in Sacramento, California and Cheyenne, Wyoming. It had been five years since Fredericksburg, Texas, originated the first Year-Round Event called the Pilgrimage Walk. This 1980 event was established to allow visitors to the National Headquarters a chance to participate in a volksmarch. However, the Headquarters was moved in 1981 to Universal City, Texas, outside San Antonio. Until 1985 no Year-Round Event was established anywhere else in the U.S.A. Nevertheless, the historic significance of Fredericksburg as the founding city of volkssporting kept the year-round concept alive. As of December 1989 almost 80 Year-Round Events existed, with San Antonio establishing a Year-Round Event in 1989.

Procedures and Policy Development

Throughout Executive Council III's tenure the meetings were held at various locations so the officers could meet the membership from all

over the U.S.A. This year also brought approval of new Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws for the AVA (AVA Newsletters, Jan. & April 1985). These new documents enabled the AVA to apply for IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status, which "would make it easier for individuals and corporations to donate to our cause of promoting good health." (Pres. Martin address to 4th Biennial Convention, June 1985). The major change brought about by these revisions was the restructuring of the AVA geographical regions from four to nine with each region selecting its own Regional Director. From 1979 through June 30, 1985, the AVA was organized into four regions: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast. (See Figure 5.C.2 - AVA Maps of Four and Nine Regions.) Effective July 1, 1985, the AVA was divided into nine regions (AVA Report of March 16, 1985, EC III meeting, issued March 20, 1985, p. 4). Updating the Constitution and Bylaws ultimately resulted in the development of the AVA Handbook for each club. This provided each club with information, policies, etc., for promoting volkssporting throughout the United States (AVA Newsletter, Jan. 1986).

Standards and Evaluations Director Carol Lewie promoted AVA Policy 3-10 on Event Brochure Criteria. The detailed directions and specifications were sent to all club presidents as part of the March 1985 AVA Newsletter.

September 6, 1985, brought a new Executive Director for the AVA with the employment of Zina K. Lawrence, nee Wood, a recreation major from North Texas State University (AVA Newsletter, Sept. 1985). Another change in operation was the expansion of the financially sound American Wanderer (TAW). It was decided The American Wanderer needed to be lengthened and published bimonthly instead of quarterly. When TAW was initially published in 1978 the cost for first class subscription was \$6.00 but over the years the price increased with rising postage and printing costs. With this expansion also came an increase in subscription cost to \$12.00 per year for first class mail which is still the current price for 1989 (AVA Newsletter, Oct. 1985).

At the February 15, 1986, meeting of the AVA Executive Council, a letter was received from the attorney responsible for registering the logo of the AVA. He suggested that the AVA Bylaws be amended to include an article on trademarks and copyrights. The proposed amendment was listed in the July 1986 Newsletter. Each club was asked to provide comments to its Regional Director prior to the voting planned for the September 27 Executive Council meeting (AVA Newsletter, July 1986, p.4).

The need for liability insurance coverage was a major concern in

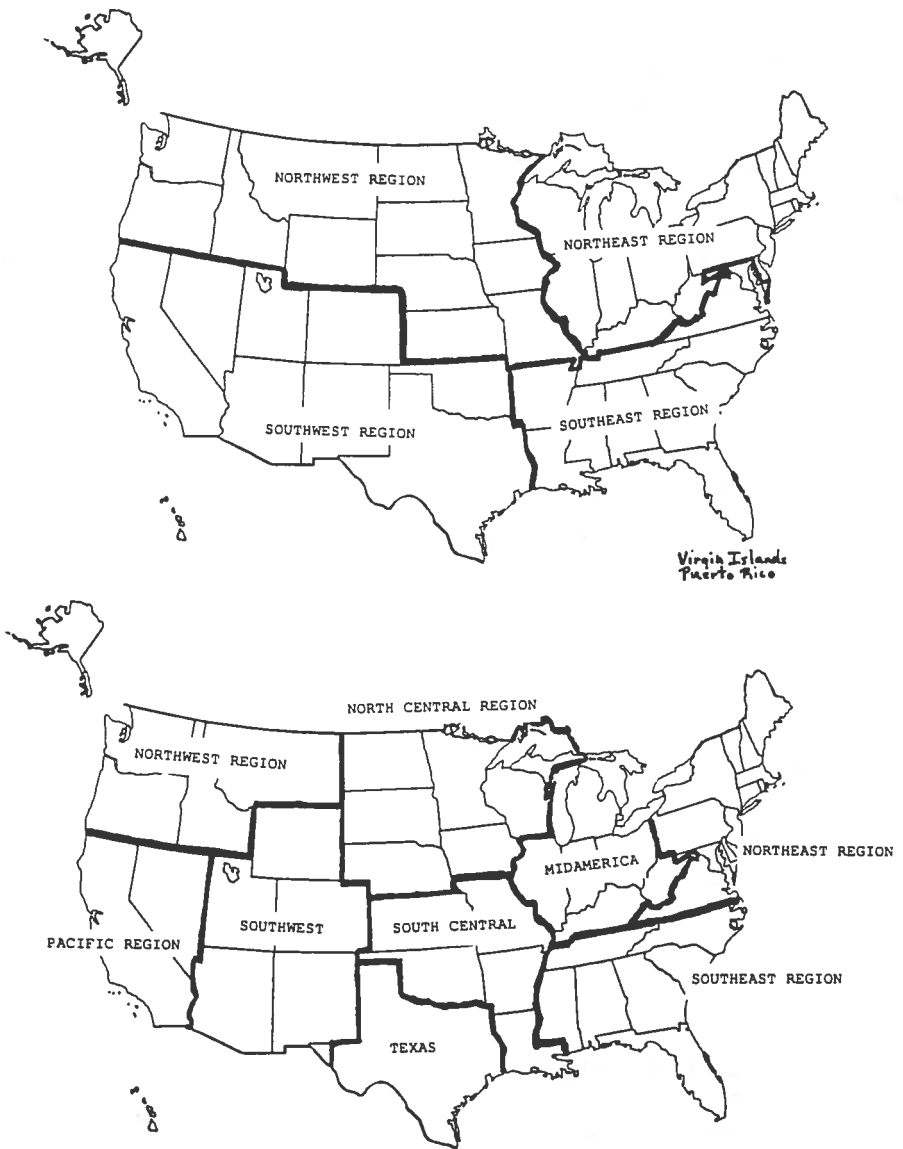


Figure 5.C.2
 AVA Maps of Four & Nine Regions. (Map composed by AVA Historian.)

1986. President Martin indicated that approximately 400 companies had been solicited to hold the liability insurance for the AVA. Each club's continued efforts at maintaining quality events and safe trails enhances the ideal of volkssporting as a low risk to liability insurance companies (AVA Newsletter, August 1986). Incorporation of a club keeps any liability from falling upon the local officers. "Having obtained corporation status, clubs must maintain the corporation as an entity of itself. Such items as setting up a separate checking account, an official mailing address, and creating a constitution and bylaws helps to establish the corporation" (TAW, Jan-Feb. 1987, AVA Newsletter, Feb. 1987, p.6).

Corporate Participation in Volkssporting

This year would be more memorable than most since 1986 was the tenth anniversary of volkssporting in America. President Max Martin emphasized the "volkssporting philosophy: 'Everyone cannot and should not have to compete in timed events in which competition and awards are based on order of finish.' On the other hand, everyone can and should have the opportunity to participate in some lifetime program of exercise and fun, which is what Volkssporting is doing for millions worldwide!" (AVA Newsletter, March 1986, p.1). The tenth anniversary celebration would be officially commemorated at nine events (one per Region) during the month of August (AVA Newsletter, May 1986). Coca Cola and Minute Maid were the corporate sponsors for the nine-event anniversary celebration (AVA Newsletter, June 1986, p. 6).

Since volkssports are family-based activities the AVA Newsletters over the course of the year emphasized the need to promote volkssporting in the schools. Youth fitness for our school age children has been a national priority. Advertising and promoting walking, biking, swimming, and cross-country skiing for school age children is a worthy endeavor pursued by the AVA. In addition, Heinz Johnson, former Executive Council member and active volkssporter, wrote a monthly health and fitness column in the Newsletter. The November issue discussed the Rockport Fitness Walking Test designed by the shoe company's research arm. Dr. James Rippe, Exercise Physiologist for Rockport, briefed the EC on the merits of the Walking Test at their September 27, 1986, meeting. At that meeting, the AVA officially endorsed the Rockport Fitness Walking Test as a validated measurement of one's own fitness level. Vice President Heinz Johnson was

encouraged by the Executive Council's vote to "further establish the American Volkssport Association as a promoter of good health" (AVA Newsletter, March 1987, p. 2).

A new year (1987) brought a new opportunity for the volkssporting participants. The Walking Magazine offered free subscriptions to the AVA members. In correspondence sent to Executive Director Zina Lawrence, Mr. Steve Morin, business manager of The Walking Magazine provided the following offer and rationale. "Because your association has the most dedicated walkers in the country we are willing to offer a free six issue (one year) subscription to all members of the AVA. We realize that this number is around 50,000 people -- they are the market our advertisers are trying to reach" (AVA Newsletter, January 1987, p. 5).

The AVA's relationship with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports was continuing for the fifth straight year. Every May the AVA has conducted events in cooperation with the National Physical Fitness and Sports Month program. The AVA continues to work hard to develop the nationwide concept of "fitness and good health through volkssporting" (Pres. Martin, AVA Newsletter, April 1987, p. 1).

Growth

Jean Fackrell, Director of Awards and Records, reported on the 1985 statistical picture of the AVA. (See Figure 5.C.3 - AVA Awards Processed Through 6/30/1985.) Through the first half of 1985, 1,667 event and 454 kilometer awards were processed (AVA Newsletter July 1985, p. 7). By November some lucky participant became the AVA's MILLIONTH based on a running count from the After-Action Report forms completed by each club after an event and diligently filed in the National Office (AVA Newsletter, December 1985). The year ended with 328 clubs and ten state associations in the nine Regions of the AVA. Over 800 events were conducted in 1985 with 89 per cent of these being walks. "The walks increased from 1984 by 30%; the bikes increased by 90%; the swims increased by 40%, and the ski events decreased by 1" (AVA Newsletter, Jan. 1986). Maine's May 18, 1986, lighthouse walk was the largest one-day ten-kilometer walk held in the U.S.A. with 3,461 participants. The walk was co-sponsored by the Southern Maine Volkssport Association (AVA-193) and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Company of Maine.

Sanctioned volkssporting events were available in all 50 states by

AVA AWARDS PROCESSED

10 June 1985

EVENTS	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	MISSTAKE	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
10	309	885	1210	1494	803	500	49	177	250	363	172
30	71	308	433	574	300	1000	14	54	89	148	93
50	46	118	248	354	160	1500	8	39	51	63	44
75	0	114	126	201	125	2000	0	45	40	49	22
100		60	73	116	69	2500		39	27	37	20
125		45	53	78	52	3000		28	21	22	19
150		31	34	54	38	3500		19	17	26	13
175		25	26	44	24	4000		16	13	26	9
200		14	21	27	26	4500		8	12	16	9
225		11	12	25	13	5000		10	12	8	8
250		12	11	22	9	5500		9	9	10	7
275		6	9	17	6	6000		6	9	15	3
300		6	5	10	7	6500		7	5	20	4
325		2	6	11	7	7000		3	6	14	7
350		3	5	5	7	7500		1	2	9	9
375		5	1	8	3	8000		0	4	8	6
400		2	5	7	1	9000		1	2	5	2
425		2	3	7	3	10000		1	1	3	2
450		1	0	5	3	11000		3	1	1	1
475		1	0	2	1	12000		2	0	1	1
500		1	0	1	1	13000		0	1	2	0
525		1	0	1	0	14000		0	0	0	2
550		0	1	2	0	15000		0	0	0	1
575		0	0	0	1	16000		0	0	0	0
600		1	0	0	0	17000		0	0	0	0
650		1	0	1	0	18000		0	0	1	0
700		0	0	1	0	19000		0	0	1	0
750		0	0	1	0	20000		0	0	1	0
TOTALS	<u>426</u>	<u>1655</u>	<u>2280</u>	<u>3068</u>	<u>1667</u>		<u>71</u>	<u>470</u>	<u>573</u>	<u>848</u>	<u>454</u>
TOTAL AWARDS	- 1981	497				RECORD OF	- 1981	856			
	- 1982	2125				ACHIEVEMENT	- 1982	1211			
	- 1983	2853				BOOKS ISSUED	- 1983	1456			
	- 1984	3916					- 1984	1762			
	- 1985	2121					- 1985	893			

Figure 5.C.3
AVA Awards Processed through 6/30/1985. (AVA National Office Files.)

the end of 1986. "On November 30, 1986, 149 people [including this author, the AVA Historian] from thirteen states attended the Southern Maine Volkssport Association's guided walk in West Glocester, Rhode Island. The walk started and ended in R.I. and crossed into Connecticut . . . The next goal will be to get members formed" into clubs in both of these states (AVA Newsletter, January 1987, p. 3). By March 1987 the AVA had sanctioned 14 Year-Round Events in the U.S. (AVA Newsletter, March 1987).

Canada and Volkssporting

The international volkssporting movement was expanded on April 4, 1987, with the beginning of the Canadian Volkssport Federation, made up of 21 Canadian clubs. Canada became the 16th IVV country joining the total worldwide participation of 15.5 million. Interim President Ron Colpitts presided over the opening meeting held in Kanata, Canada. AVA President Max Martin sent a message of enthusiasm and encouragement to the CVF on behalf of the AVA. "As a sister country, he welcomed the opportunity for the CVF and AVA to work together in the interest of volkssporting" (AVA Newsletter, May 1987, p. 1).

GROWTH OF THE AVA AND VOLKSSPORTS IN THE U.S.A.

PART D: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL V--1987-1989

AVA 5th Biennial Convention - Tacoma, Washington

The theme and tentative schedule for the 1987 AVA fifth Biennial Convention was discussed in the June 1986 AVA Newsletter with the more formal format appearing in the April 1987 AVA Newsletter. The theme was "Volkssporting: A Family Affair" and the Convention was held at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, between June 23 and 27. Events began the weekend before (June 20) in Oregon and concluded with events on June 28th in Canada (AVA Newsletter, April 1987, p. 3).

This Convention, cochaired by Preston and Elizabeth Johnson, concluded the term of office for President Max Martin and Executive Council IV. He was the first AVA President to hold two consecutive two-year terms of office, 1983-1987. During his term of office the volkssporting movement continued to expand across the United States. The number of clubs grew from 176 in 1983 to over 400 in 1986 and the number of events grew to almost 1,000 in 1986. In his last letter to the membership he indicated his pleasure in the quantity and quality of growth and was excited and encouraged about the future of the AVA (AVA Newsletter, June 1987). He suggested that the AVA broaden the base of participation "by selling our product to those who are either not involved in any sport program or who are involved in some other less desirable recreational pursuit" (Pres. Martin's address to AVA 5th Convention, 1987, p.2). Yet with all this promotion he hoped the organization and movement would remain fun.

During the Tacoma Convention, Dayton, Ohio was selected over Houston, Texas as the site for the 1989 AVA 6th Biennial Convention.

The Ohio Volkssport Association set the date for the convention to be June 19-24. The theme "Volkssports--Making Fitness Fun" and the logo was approved by the EC during their meeting in Sacramento, California on February 13, 1988 (AVA EC V Minutes).

Procedures and Policy Development

Newly elected President Tom Boyd and Executive Council V (see Appendix B) indicated their desire to "unite all the efforts of every club. . . As a nation, we are geographically large. It is, therefore, a challenge to each of us to work together, plan together, and volkssport together" (AVA Newsletter, July 1987, p. 1). It was agreed that all Executive Council meetings are open to the public and anyone interested in attending should contact the National Office for details on upcoming meetings.

The first meeting of EC V took place in San Antonio, Texas, on August 8, 1987. At this meeting chairmen were named for the standing and special committees. A Safety Committee was created to address the ever-important concern necessary for healthy volkssporting events. Both trail and participant safety were to be the major focus of this committee. Each chairman selected his own committee members. George Henderson, Mid-America Regional Director, was named to coordinate the Safety Committee and Brian Lewie, Vice President, chaired the Publicity Committee. The Publicity Committee was organized to help in the task of informing people about volkssports and the AVA. One of their goals was to develop a slide presentation available to the membership. Slides received from all over the United States were used in preparing the final product, which was shown at the 1989 AVA 6th Biennial Convention.

The Safety Committee developed an Incident Report Form to be used to report accidents which occur during volkssporting events and then to be sent to the National Office. Executive Council V approved the form at their February 13, 1988 meeting (EC V minutes). Meanwhile, the Publicity Committee was promoting the use of the term "lifesports" instead of volkssports, "walkfests" instead of volksmarch, and terms ending in "fests" or "wanderings" (AVA EC V minutes, February 13, 1988, p. 2). Walkfest was the term used in 1976 by Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp to promote the first volksmarch. In addition, an information brochure and poster about volkssporting was being developed and a publicity questionnaire was being prepared to help the AVA and the publicity committee better assist individuals and clubs to

promote volkssports.

Finally, after efforts begun by Executive Council IV, President Boyd reported that the AVA had achieved charitable organization status from the IRS as of October 1987. "The AVA has long been an established not-for-profit group", 501(c)(4) status, and now with this upgrade they have received 501(c)(3) status. . . The upgrade from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3) was sought in order to better utilize government resources and opportunities. The (c)(4) status was a basic non-profit status allowing the AVA to be exempt from federal and state income tax. The (c)(3) status continues the current exemption but allows for contribution to be tax deductible for the distributor" (AVA Newsletter, November 1987, p. 1). This change in status indicates that the IRS now recognizes "the AVA's operations, goals and activities as a health and education service to the public" (AVA Newsletter, November 1987, p. 1).

President Boyd reported in the December 1987 AVA Newsletter that the AVA logo received its copyright and registration approval from the U.S. Patent and Registration Office. "This means we must now insure that the current logo showing our registration symbol is used to protect our logo" (p. 1). "When the logo and name are used, such as on event brochures, they must include the encircled "R". Any items, other than event brochures, on which the AVA logo and name are used must be registered with the National Office" (AVA Newsletter, October 1988, p. 4).

After a number of years of hard work in securing a liability insurance policy, success was finally achieved on November 20, 1987, through K & K Insurance Agency of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The EC V accepted the "\$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence for liability of AVA member clubs and designated third parties" (AVA Newsletter, December 1987, p. 2). In order for the insurance to be activated, all Event Sanction Requests must be received by the National Office at least 60 days before the event date. Events sanctioned less than 60 days are not guaranteed of insurance coverage. Clubs can receive an insurance certificate upon request to the National Office no later than 60 days prior to the event date. Initially there was a fee assessed by K & K for each such certificate.

On September 24, 1988, the Executive Council voted to conduct a professional, comprehensive, operational review of the AVA National Office. A committee composed of Julian Bauer (Chairman) from Maryland, Dr. John Proe from Pennsylvania, and Donna Seline from Minnesota took on the task. The Committee made an on-site review from January 30 through February 1, 1989. The Committee offered

numerous specific recommendations in the general categories of “improving role definitions among the AVA governing bodies; designing new supervisory and work alignments; improving time management practices; developing performance standards; and improving the work environment” (AVA Newsletter, May 1989, p. 4). For the most part, the recommendations hoped to increase accountability of the staff to AVA member clubs. The report was accepted by the Executive Council at the EC meeting of August 1989 and work was begun to implement the recommendations.

The EC adopted a policy on event awards during the April 15-16, 1989, meeting in Omaha. The following “may be used as awards for volkssport events: medals, patches, plates of metal, wood, glass, porcelain; pictures and wall ornaments; figurines; trophy cups; glasses, jugs (with or without a handle), wine glasses, ceramic cups, and pots. The following items may not be used for awards: alcoholic beverages, food, or clothing. You should also be aware that copyrighted materials and trademarked items cannot be used as awards or souvenirs for events unless you have written permission from the owner, even if they have been modified” (AVA Newsletter, April 1989, p. 4). At the June 19, 1989 meeting of the EC in Dayton, Ohio, a new policy defining the relationship between the AVA President, Executive Director, and Executive Council was approved. It also clarified the rights of individual EC members to place items on the agenda for EC meetings (Bauer correspondence, December 13, 1989).

Fee Change Proposal

Northeast Regional Director Julian Bauer suggested the formation of the Short-Range Planning Committee for the purpose of “providing detailed plans annually to the Executive Council for approval. This committee would develop historical and trend analyses for each item of income and outgo, with narrative projections and assumptions” (AVA Newsletter, October 1987, p. 7). This committee would look at specifics of the upcoming fiscal years while the long-range planning committee would be more visionary for future hopes and goals. The suggestion for establishing this committee received approval by the end of the year with Julian Bauer being appointed chairman (AVA Newsletter, December 1987). By February the committee distributed to all clubs a proposal regarding changes in dues, sanction fees, participation fees, and the amount chargeable for awards (AVA EC V minutes, Feb. 13, 1988).

The fee change proposal brought the most diverse viewpoints to Executive Council V. "At the June 18, Executive Council Meeting, the EC voted 8 to 3 in favor of the . . . Bylaw Amendment and Policy 3-10 F change" (Boyd, Letter to AVA members, July 11, 1988, and AVA Newsletter, July 1988). The proposal was submitted to the AVA membership on April 1, 1988, the EC accepted the recommendation of the Short-Range Planning committee on July 11, and the final vote was held at the EC meeting in Lenexa, Kansas, on September 24, 1988. At the September meeting the proposal was approved effective January 1, 1989 (President Boyd's correspondence to member clubs, October 1, 1988). Between April and September, the membership was provided with information supporting the proposal and in opposition to the proposal through the vehicles of The American Wanderer, the AVA Newsletter, letters from President Boyd and the Club Rights Coalition (AVA Newsletters, July and August 1988, TAW Jul-Aug. 1988). In addition, members were, as always, invited to attend meetings of the EC. Interestingly enough, not one discussion of the issue occurred at the subsequent 1989 AVA Biennial Convention in Dayton.

The fee change proposal had multiple components with the first concern requiring payment by each club of the annual dues of \$50.00. Prior to this proposal the AVA waived these dues if at least one event was scheduled per year. The second aspect was the reduction of the walk event sanction fee from \$85.00 to \$20.00 per event and bike, swim, or ski event fees from \$50.00 to \$20.00 per event. The third aspect was the change in participation fee from five cents per participant (walk free, IVV credit only, or award/credit) to 25 cents per paid participant (each participant who earned the award or IVV credit). The last aspect allowed a club to assess a maximum of \$6.00 at registration for award/credit, but for pre-registration the fee could not exceed \$5.00.

One major intent of this proposal was to assist the smaller clubs and clubs which had small event participation through no fault of their own. A second intent was to recognize the effect of inflation of fifty per cent since 1979 on the price of awards, brochures, etc. The Short-Range Planning Committee viewed this proposal as only one step, not the total solution, in helping the small clubs and small event dilemma. President Tom Boyd indicated that the Executive Council realized that "poor management, conflicting event dates, overpurchase of awards, poor publicity, poor trails, etc., are all factors which impact on the success or failure of small club/small events" (AVA Newsletter, September 1988, p. 2).

Round- and Long-Distance Walks

Under the leadership of Preston Johnson, Northwest Regional Director, a new concept in volkssporting, called Round- and Long-Distance Walks (RLDW's), was begun as a pilot program on January 1, 1988, in the State of Washington. "Round- and Long-Distance Walks are a series of trails totaling a minimum of 120 kilometers in length and are usually open 365 days a year. The trails are not meant to be completed in a day, but at one's own pace over a period of time" (AVA Newsletter, September 1987, p.3). The Evergreen State Volkssport Association in cooperation with the Washington State Bed and Breakfast Guild established twelve trails throughout the state, each trail utilizing a bed and breakfast facility as the start/finish point. One event credit is given for each 40 kilometers completed, plus distance credit for the actual kilometers walked (AVA Newsletter, December, 1987). If the walker wants to receive IVV award and/or credit, a guidebook is purchased for \$6.00. "The Guidebook contains the 'start cards' for each of the 12 trails and is sent to the club office upon completion, together with one's IVV Record Books, to receive the IVV credit" (AVA Newsletter, December, 1987, p. 4). To receive the award the participant must complete the entire 120 km and pay an additional \$4.00 fee. By the February 13, 1988 meeting of the EC, "over 400 guidebooks had been sold. The first person to finish all twelve trails completed the event in seven days" (AVA EC minutes, p.2). At the June 19, 1989 meeting of the EC in Dayton, the RLDW's concept was approved "as a permanent program of the AVA" (AVA Newsletter, July 1988, p. 5).

Year-Round Events

The AVA had been sanctioning Year-Round Events (YRE) under an informal agreement with the IVV. The concept of Year-Round Events began with the 1980 sanctioning of the Pilgrimage Walk in Fredericksburg, Texas. This first Year-Round Event was created to allow visitors an opportunity to participate in a volksmarch at any time they were visiting the birthplace of volkssporting in America and the then-location of the National Headquarters.

Executive Council V approved a year-round events policy to be proposed to the IVV in order to formalize the agreement between the AVA and the IVV (AVA Newsletter, March 1988). The original concept as understood by President Tom Boyd "was for these 50 events to be on

a 'one per state' basis. However, over time this concept evolved into one involving 50 events, but at various locations throughout the United States without regard to the original concept" (AVA Newsletter, October 1988, p. 1).

The Year-Round Events Committee, chaired by Preston Johnson, prepared a request that the AVA and the Canadian Volkssport Federation (CVF) would have authority to conduct and expand the program beyond the 50 events allowed to this point in time. President Tom Boyd and Vice President Brian Lewie presented this YRE program proposal to the IVV at their November 12, 1988 meeting in Brentwood, England (AVA Newsletter, September & October 1988). "The AVA was granted an exception to IVV rules, allowing us to continue our Year-Round Events and to expand the program based on an average of two events per state (translated to mean 100 events at locations of our choice)" (AVA Newsletter, December 1988, p. 1). Later discussion between AVA President Tom Boyd and the President of the IVV Horst Volkmer indicated that, in fact, no limitation had been placed on YRE's. At the Brentwood, England IVV meeting, the AVA also extended an invitation to the IVV to host an IVV meeting in Seattle, Washington, at a future date, most likely 1990 (AVA Newsletter, January 1989).

Year-Round Events are a popular addition to the volkssporting scene. The statistics for 1987 indicated that 20 of the 21 events reporting had an overall participation of 13,369. The average of the 17 walk events was 711 participants while the three bike events averaged 428 participants. For 1988 there were 41 Year-Round Events and one Round- and-Long-Distance Walk approved by the EC (AVA Newsletter, March 1988). The AVA rescinded the policy requiring Year-Round and Round- and-Long-Distance Walks to pay 35% of their net proceeds to the AVA. This change took place effective January 1, 1989 (AVA Newsletter, March 1989). The YRE Committee prepared new policies and procedures for the AVA Handbook on YRE and RLDW. These were published and distributed in March 1989. The AVA allocated ten Year-Round Events per Region to balance out the distribution geographically. Five of the Regions, Northwest, Northeast, South Central, Mid-America, and Texas, were given an extra two events.

Volkssporting World-Wide - GLOBAL

GLOBAL events took place September 17-18, 1988, for the eighth consecutive year. The GLOBAL program is sponsored by the U.S. Air Force Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division (MWR), which has

hosted approximately 105 volkssport events each year. In 1988 events took place in the United States, Europe, Japan, Korea, Greenland, Canada and Turkey. These events "have helped to promote volkssporting and generated new clubs such as: Show-Me Volksmarsch Club - Whiteman AFB, Mo.; Wichita-McConnell Skywalkers - McConnell AFB, Kansas; The Wright Step - Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio; Randolph Roadrunners - Randolph AFB, Texas; and More!" (AVA Newsletter, September 1988, p. 3).

"The U.S. Army again joined with the AVA and the U.S. Air Force in a GLOBAL program entitled "Army Fitness Challenge GLOBAL Program. Under the guidance of the Army Health Promotion Branch . . . , the first annual worldwide Army GLOBAL event was scheduled for Friday, May 19, 1989" (AVA Newsletter, April 1989, p. 1).

AVA and Other National Organizations

For the fifth year the AVA was represented at the National Recreation and Park Convention held in New Orleans on September 17-20, 1987. The NRPA is a non-profit association composed of city, county, state, and federal recreation departments. Zina Lawrence, AVA Executive Director, Patty Proulx, Southeast Regional Director, and Pat Vittori worked a display booth promoting the AVA and volkssports. As Zina Lawrence indicated, the goal of attending is to encourage the parks and recreation people to start clubs or lend active support to clubs in their areas (AVA Newsletter, October 1987).

Continued association with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports was approved by EC V for 1988 and 1989. Each May for the past few years the AVA had encouraged clubs to hold events in conjunction with National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Volkssporters qualify for a free certificate which entitles them to purchase a specially designed patch if they have participated in any volkssport event during the month of May (AVA Newsletter, January & February 1988).

A number of independent efforts initiated the introduction of volkssporting to the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). The Georgia Walkers (AVA-178) sponsored a weekend volksmarch at the April 1985 one hundredth anniversary convention of AAHPERD meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. As a life member of AAHPERD, the AVA Historian attends most of the annual conventions of this association. In 1985 she participated in the

volksmarch event on both days and looked for volkssporting at later conventions. The next involvement did not occur until April 1989 when Bill Jenkins, later to become Northeast Regional Director, coordinated a guided walk through Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts, which was advertised in the AAHPERD convention program. During the March 29, 1990, AAHPERD convention meeting in New Orleans, the AVA Historian presented a 75-minute oral program with slides entitled "Volkssporting: Leisure Fitness for a Lifetime" to over one hundred attendees.

AVA Headquarters and Museum Project

Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (AVA-001) introduced a motion to the AVA fifth National Convention for the establishment of the AVA National Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. The Executive Council referred the proposal by VVF to the Planning Committee for study (AVA EC minutes, August 8, 1987). To move along the efforts by the Planning Committee, the winter of 1988 brought two important donations from fellow clubs. The Columbia (Md) Volksmarch Club (AVA-264) was the first club to contribute toward the development of a Building Fund for the AVA. Julian Bauer, founder of the club, presented AVA President Tom Boyd with a check for \$1,000 on February 13, 1988.

Marv Blevins, manager of the Lenexa, Kansas, Community Center and member of the Heart of America Volkssport Club (AVA-331), "presented a proposal that the AVA Headquarters and Museum be built on a two-acre parcel of land which the City of Lenexa has available. The proposed site is adjacent to an area planned for a park, with permanent walking and biking paths" (AVA Newsletter, October 1988, p. 3).

The EC established a National Headquarters Planning Committee. One of the major tasks will be to recommend the size, composition, and location of a permanent headquarters. Subcommittees of Finance, Site Selection, and Headquarters Requirements will be formed and anyone willing to serve was asked to write to the Chairman (AVA Newsletter, April 1989).

Meanwhile, the Emerald City Wanderers (AVA-318) donated the funds for an outdoor sign, which went into place in front of the National office before the February 13th meeting of the EC (AVA EC V minutes). The major issue that had to be delayed was the corporate sponsorship due to a poor response from contacted corporations.

Growth

The number of clubs in the American Volkssport Association reached the milestone number 500 on December 30, 1987, with the formation of the Walkabout America Club of Washington State, headed by Alisa Johnson. According to President Boyd, 98 clubs were formed in 1987, "the largest number in any one year since our beginning" (AVA Newsletter, February 1988, p. 1). A total of 1,129 volkssporting events were sanctioned in 1987, an increase of 220 over 1986. Participation in volkssports sponsored by the 500 AVA clubs total approximately 352,000 in 1987. The Houston Happy Hikers Tunnel walk resulted in the largest single event turnout with 3,826 participants. The tunnel walk surpassed the Maine Lighthouse walk of May 18, 1986, by 365 participants. The Northwest Region averaged the most participants per walk, namely 635, with the Northeast's average of 493 coming in second. Yet, the Northeast Region hosted the largest number of events with 149 in 1987. In addition to the four regular types of volkssport events routinely conducted, there was also one snowshoe event sanctioned this year.

By the end of 1988 three volkssporters had participated in sanctioned events in all 50 states. The illustrious trio are Carl Baranski from Pennsylvania, who was the first person to reach that goal, Roger Turczynski of Maryland, second, and Peter Drown of New York, third.

Regional Alignment

As volkssporting grew in the United States, the AVA found that the Regions needed to be reapportioned. Beginning in 1979 the AVA divided the U.S. into four Regions, then nine Regions in 1985, and, beginning July 1, 1989, the AVA expanded to ten regions. (See Figure 5.D.1 - AVA Map of Ten Regions). From 1984 through 1988 the number of clubs grew from 262 to 573 and the number of events doubled from 604 to 1,285. Participation went from 205,944 to 458,322 as measured by the After-Action Reports. This growth also made demands upon the National Office in terms of office staff numbers and workload. The overall impact caused an increase in the AVA Budget from \$141,385 to \$380,715. As President Boyd indicated "in this era of ever-increasing costs, we need to be taking every possible action to keep operating costs to a minimum. With only a minimum of assistance from clubs, we could have improved service, more timely responses, reduced expenses . . ." (AVA Newsletter, March 1989, p. 2).

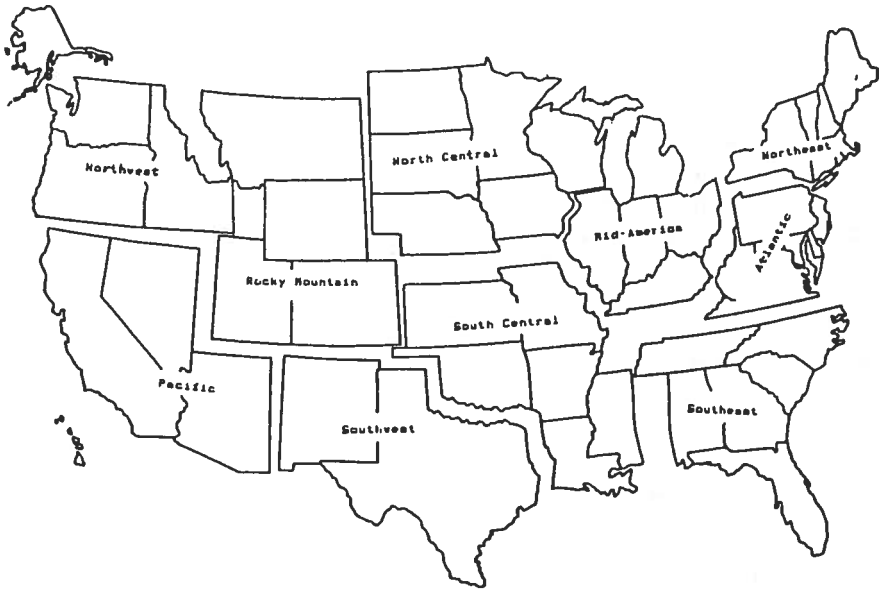


Figure 5.D.1
AVA Map of Ten Regions. (*TAW*, March 1989, p. 3.)

AVA Specialties

Shirley Luther, North Central Regional Director and Chairperson of the Merchandise Advisory Committee, reported on the growth of AVA Specialties. Specialties was the brainchild of founding father Kenn Knopp and has always been a way to help clubs earn extra money through the sale of AVA merchandise. It started with a few T-shirts, pins, and patches. Now there are over 25 different items with over 106 selection possibilities. It now represents 15% of the income to the AVA. Clubs are able to purchase items at a discounted price and then sell them for the advertised retail price to earn a profit (AVA Newsletter, May 1988).

Volkssporting in the U.S.A. - History Project

June 18, 1988, officially marked the start of the historical compilation project with the attendance of Dr. Charlene Agne-Traub at the EC meeting in Dayton, Ohio, followed by a week-long visit to the National Office in Universal City, Texas (TAW Jul-Aug. 1988). Prior to this time Don Vartanian, Treasurer, was also acting as Historian. He was able to organize The American Wanderer into a complete set of issues and began the process of maintaining a historical file. The EC had been looking for someone to take over the duties of the Historian and to tackle the challenging project of writing a book on the history of volkssporting in the United States. Dr. Agne-Traub, an avid volksmarcher from Virginia, was selected by the Executive Council to fill this important position. Her qualifications, in addition to an earned doctorate in health education, include a minor in history as part of her bachelor's degree. She spent about three weeks in June and August of 1988 at the National Office reviewing the voluminous records and interviewing current and past officers. Her goal was to "complete the project in time for the AVA Biennial Convention next June" (AVA Newsletter, July 1988, p. 3). A year later she was able to present the EC with a draft of the History of Volkssporting in the U.S.A. from 1976 through 1985.

Volkssports Promotional Endeavors

The AVA received limited national exposure when President Tom Boyd, Vice President Brian Lewie, Pacific Regional Director Berta

Wilkes and her husband Ben met "with a national television film crew at an event held on April 9-10, 1988, in Los Gatos, California. The crew was there to film a typical walking event for Dr. Art Ulene, who . . . was doing a program about the benefits of walking" (AVA Newsletter, May 1988, p. 3 and TAW Jul-Aug. 1988, p. 2). The film was used on NBC's Today Show on May 5, 1988. The event host was AVA-338, the South Bay Striders, and their point of contact was Elizabeth Ireland. Unfortunately, our exposure was only a brief interview with Berta Wilkes, but in that time Dr. Ulene also mentioned "the number of clubs, number of events and the address of the AVA" (AVA Newsletter, June 1988, p. 1). Brian Lewie, chairman of the publicity committee and AVA vice-president, indicated that "this is the type of national exposure we need to educate the general public about our lifesports program" (AVA Newsletter, May 1988, p. 3). Yet, President Tom Boyd indicated that regardless of these efforts, each one of us is responsible for publicizing and recruiting for volkssporting.

An excellent resource for introducing people to volkssporting is the AVA's brochure publication entitled "Lifesports". These brochures have existed since August 1988 and are available to any club upon written request to the National Office. Each of the brochures cost \$0.12 and the AVA encourages careful distribution. Clubs should complement the "Lifesports" brochure with their own club information sheet or event flyer (AVA Newsletter, March 1989).

AVA Recognition Awards

As preparation continued for the 1989 AVA Biennial Convention in Dayton, an AVA Recognition Awards Committee was formed with former Southeast Regional Director Patty Proulx as chairwoman. At that time the AVA had five categories of awards: AVA Hall of Fame, Distinguished Achievements, Certificate of Service, AVA Member Club, and awards to individuals or organizations outside the AVA. In addition to these awards, the committee implemented the "IVV Honor Entitling Order adopted by the IVV in May 1985. It provides four forms of honoring: (1) letter of appreciation from the IVV President; (2) IVV Merit Pin with Certificate in three categories: bronze - at least eight years, silver - 15 years, gold - 25 years; (3) IVV Honor Pin; and (4) nomination for IVV Honorary President" (AVA Newsletter, January 1989, p. 3).

Since the AVA Conventions are held every two years it was decided to hold a memorial observance during the upcoming and future con-

ventions to honor volkssporters who have passed away during the previous two years. Names of volkssporters who have died should be sent to the National Office no later than June 1st of the convention year (AVA Newsletter, April 1989).

U.S.A. President's Inauguration Walk

On January 21 and 22, 1989, the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers (AVA-151) celebrated the inauguration of the 41st President of the United States with a winter volksmarch. "Lady Luck smiled on Northern Virginia's 13th event as a record 1313 walkers crossed the 13km finish line in Arlington, Virginia. Of this number, 153 chose to qualify for a special (award) bar by riding the metro subway into Washington, D.C., to hike an added three kilometers along the inaugural parade route" (TAW, March-April 1989, p. 4). Fifty per cent of the walkers registered for the frolicking elephant medal commemorating the victorious Republican Party. Adding to the fun, the walk began at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, where one of the pre-registered walkers was "George Bush, a resident of (watch my lips) Fort Belvoir, VA, instead of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue" (TAW, March-April 1989, p. 4).

Canada and Volkssporting

In the spirit of friendship and volkssport promotion, President and Mrs. Boyd attended the Third Annual Convention of the Canadian Volkssport Federation (CVF) on March 31, 1989, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Since 1986 the CVF has grown to 37 clubs in seven provinces. "During 1988, the CVF hosted 114 events, attracting 18,000 participants, and chartered five new clubs" (AVA Newsletter, May 1989, p. 1). By the end of 1989, Canada offered five Year-Round Events in three provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario) with others in the planning stage. President Boyd presented the CVF with a gift from the AVA and extended our wishes for their continued success. We share with our Canadian neighbors a common bond in volkssporting and offered them our continued friendship and assistance.

AVA and the IVV

The May 6, 1989 meeting of the IVV took place at Alzate Brianza in the Como District of Italy. President Boyd reported that the English-speaking countries were successful in obtaining an agreement from the IVV President that an English translator be present at all meetings and that all documents (minutes, agenda, correspondence, etc.) be published in both German and English. "Switzerland proposed a 'family fee' of 25 francs for events with one start card for an entire family, but with all family members receiving an award. This will be tested in Switzerland for two years and the results reported to the IVV" (AVA Newsletter, June 1989, p. 1).

GROWTH OF THE AVA AND VOLKSSPORTS IN THE U.S.A.

PART E: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL VI - 1989-PRESENT

AVA 6th Biennial Convention - Dayton, Ohio

The 1989 AVA 6th Biennial Convention was held at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, from June 20 through June 24. Thirteen events (starting on June 17 and ending June 25) were provided along with business meetings, workshops, exhibitors displays, and an awards banquet. The results of the election for the members of Executive Council VI are listed in Appendix B along with their committee assignments. "Fourteen state organizations and 353 clubs were represented at the business sessions by delegates or proxies" (AVA Newsletter, July 1989, p. 2).

Two proposals were presented with regard to the AVA Headquarters and Museum. Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (VVF) (AVA-001) gave a slide presentation requesting that an AVA National museum be located in Fredericksburg, Texas, where the first volkssport event took place in 1976. VVF had introduced a motion, which EC V had referred to the Planning Committee, at the 5th Biennial Convention. This current proposal had the unanimous support of the Texas Volkssport Association in addition to the VVF.

Heart of America Volkssport Association (AVA-331) from Lenexa, Kansas, proposed moving the AVA National Headquarters to a two-acre site valued at \$180,000 in Lenexa. "The property would be given to the AVA by the City of Lenexa or leased to the AVA at \$1.00 per year for 99 years" (AVA Newsletter, July 1989, p. 2). Both proposals were referred to the National Headquarters Committee for study and recommendation and the issue will be discussed again at the AVA 7th Biennial Convention in 1991.

Two groups vied for the honor of hosting the next convention with the Baltimore, Maryland-Washington D.C. metropolitan area winning over Lenexa, Kansas. The Baltimore group selected "Our

American Heritage” as the proposed 1991 Convention theme to be hosted by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Campus in Catonsville, Maryland.

With the assistance of clubs around the nation, the AVA Publicity Committee completed the slide show and narrative presentation designed for use by clubs in spreading the word on volkssporting. The national debut of this presentation, entitled “Volkssporting, What’s It All About?,” took place at the sixth AVA Biennial Convention in Dayton (AVA Newsletter, May 1989).

“In commemoration of the AVA’s 10th anniversary, President Tom Boyd has designated the walk in Yellow Springs, Ohio, on June 21 of the convention week as the 1989 President’s Walk. This event was hosted by the Glen Helen Volkssport Association and the President’s IVV Certification Stamp (No. 12345) was issued to all participants” (AVA Newsletter, June 1989, p. 3). The AVA President is authorized to commemorate one event each year with his designated IVV stamp. “From 1976 until 1979, all volkssport events had to obtain sanction and IVV Certification Stamps directly from the International Volkssportverband in Germany. At the 1979 AVA Biennial Convention, the first AVA-sanctioned event with the U.S.A. country designation on the IVV Certification Stamp was held in Glen Helen Park in Yellow Springs, Ohio” (AVA Newsletter, June 1989, p. 3). The host club for this first AVA-sanctioned event was AVA-010, formerly the Dayton Riverdale Volkssport Association, and now its successor the Dayton Walking Club.

At the banquet numerous awards were presented. Dr. Carol Coffee, Ph.D., second president of the AVA, became only the second recipient of the Hall of Fame Award. The “founding father” of volkssporting in the United States, Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp, was the first Hall of Fame recipient. Kenn received his award in 1985. Since this Convention recognized the tenth anniversary of the AVA, founder’s club plaques were presented to 28 of the original 35 clubs chartered by the AVA in 1979. These member club awards were given in appreciation for ten years of dedicated service for volkssporting. “For the first time in the history of the AVA, IVV awards were presented to four individuals in the AVA. Herr Horst Volkmer, IVV President, honored” AVA past presidents, Dr. David Toth, M.D., and Dr. Carol Coffee, Ph.D., along with George Henderson and Brian Lewie (AVA Newsletter, July 1989, p. 3). These four men received the IVV Merit Pin at the bronze level signifying at least eight years of service to a national or international volkssporting organization.

Procedures and Policy Development

The EC approved the development and administration of a national survey of volkssporters in hopes of securing more corporate sponsorship, improving AVA events, and serving volkssporters everywhere. Gary Traub, statistician and member of the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers (AVA-151), was asked by Julian Bauer to design an instrument and analyze the results. The proposed instrument was distributed and discussed at the EC meeting in Dayton, Ohio, on June 19, 1989. (See Figure 5.E.1 - AVA National Survey Instrument of Volkssporters.) After approval of the instrument, the recommended procedures for sampling distribution were given to each member of the EC on June 23, 1989. Each Regional Director was requested to select four or more events from his or her Region to participate in this nationwide survey. Partial analysis of the more than 4,100 respondents will have been reported to the EC at their September 1990 meeting in Portland.

During the June 19, 1989, meeting of the EC V in Dayton, Seasonal Events were authorized. "These are daily events which are eleven months or less in duration. Seasonal Events will be required to follow the policies and procedures established for Year-Round Events" (AVA Newsletter, July 1989, p. 4). In addition, the Year-Round Events policies and procedures (AVA Handbook Section 4-36) were modified to include Year-Round Swim Events.

The first annual National Volkssporting Weekend was designated for Labor Day weekend 1990. "The purpose of this program is to attract national publicity to volkssporting, expand the volkssporting movement, and provide participating member clubs and state organizations an opportunity to improve their financial bases" (AVA Newsletter, May 1989, p. 3).

Treasurer Julian Bauer asked Retired Colonel Ken Wilson, Treasurer of the Washington D.C. Volksmarch Club (AVA-021) and the Maryland Volkssport Association, to be the chairman of a workgroup to develop a handbook for club treasurers. This booklet will be helpful to clubs who want the 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and, therefore, need to follow IRS procedures (AVA Newsletter, July 1989). The first draft of the AVA Handbook for Treasurers was completed in August 1989.

Growth

Another milestone was reached in the AVA with the sanctioning of club number 600, the Tough Trail Trompers of Portland, Oregon. Total participation for 1989 was 497,292 in 1,757 events (TAW, Mar/Apr '90).

VOLKSSPORTER SURVEY
BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION

an Syle
Form A

1. Age _____ 2. Sex: M ___ F ___
3. Highest level of education: Did not complete High School ___
Completed High School ___ Associate's Degree ___
Bachelor's Degree ___ Master's Degree ___
Doctoral Degree ___
4. Current Annual Household Income: <\$15,000 ___
\$15,000-\$25,000 ___ \$25,000-\$50,000 ___
\$50,000-\$75,000 ___ >\$75,000 ___
5. Zip Code _____ 6. Volkssport clubmember? Y ___ N ___
7. I started volkssporting in 19____.
8. How many other family members came to this event with you? ___
9. How many friends (not-family) came to this event with you? ___
10. # of states in which you attended an event ___
11. # of countries (not U.S.) in which you attended an event ___
12. Why do you participate in Volkssports? Check all appropriate.
___ a. for the awards (stamps, medals, patches, etc.)
___ b. for health benefits (reduce blood pressure, etc.)
___ c. to enjoy the out-of-doors
___ d. for the travel; to see other parts of the country
___ e. for the exercise
___ f. to socialize
___ g. other reasons (please state _____)
13. # of events participated in during last 12 months? 1st event ___
<10 ___ 10-29 ___ 30-49 ___ 50-75 ___ >75 ___
14. In how many of these did you walk 20 km or more? None ___ 1-5 ___
6 or more ___
15. # of events I hope to attend in the next 12 months: <10 ___
10-29 ___ 30-49 ___ 50-75 ___ >75 ___
16. How many hours did you drive or travel to attend this event?
<1 ___ 1-2 ___ 2-4 ___ 4-8 ___ >8 ___
17. How far did you walk today at this event? ___ km
18. For event awards I prefer: credit only ___ medals ___
patches ___ hat pins ___ other (describe) _____
19. I first found out about this event from: club newsletter ___
brochure ___ friend ___ newspaper ___ radio/TV ___
other (describe) _____
20. I wear a shoe designed for exercise walking. Y ___ N ___
21. What brand and model did you wear today? _____
22. Did you or will you eat at a local restaurant during this
volkssport outing? Y ___ N ___
23. Did you or will you buy any food available on the event
grounds? Y ___ N ___
24. Did you or will you spend the night in a: hotel ___ motel ___
camping area ___ friend's house ___ own home ___.
25. State your occupation: _____
26. Are you: retired ___ housepouse ___ self-employed ___
privately employed ___ government employee ___
unemployed ___

THANK You

Figure 5.E.1

AVA National Survey Instrument of Volkssporters. (Developed by Gary Traub, Statistician, Member AVA-151, Northern Virginia Volksmarchers.)

CHAPTER SIX

FUTURE OF THE AVA AND VOLKSSPORTING IN AMERICA

As Historian I felt the "founding father" of volkssporting would be in a good position to reflect on the challenges and directions that he sees for volkssporting and the AVA. It had been seven years since Kenn Knopp resigned as National Coordinator of the IPS-USA, later AVA, when I had the pleasure of talking with him on June 25, 1988. Kenn feels

volksmarching is popular where people are doing a good job and have a festival event. Then it will steamroll and clubs, events, and participation will be like an avalanche. Leadership is the key to make it work anywhere. If it has an ethnic base, like a German heritage, it should have even a better chance at succeeding. . . . The attitude and structure of the national organization was changing and this business-like drive was affecting me and my health. My doctor recommended that I stop all involvement and this was like a divorce for me. It was terrible for awhile. . . . I have no regrets in bringing volksmarching to America and I would do it again. I feel the movement will continue to spread over the U.S.A. More and more opinions can be heard, but no one group will be as likely to dominant. . . . My one regret is that the festival aspect of volkssporting, so common in Germany, is less and less seen in the U.S.A today. I hope there can be a return to this festival attitude so that it can be healthful and fun, while providing fellowship in our hectic pace today. . . . Emphasis on personal achievement is all right, but not at the expense of fun and fellowship. The Year-Round Event concept is marvelous and we are way ahead of the Europeans in this aspect. It is great to be able to walk anytime at your own pace and I am

fortunate to live where the first Year-Round started as the Pilgrimage Walk (Knopp interview, 6/25/1988).

In tribute to Kenn the October 1981 issue of The American Wanderer had this to say: "If any single individual can be credited with bringing volkssports to America, it has to be Kenn. It was his contagious enthusiasm and his great vision that got us started. Kenn was the driving force behind the first American volksmarsch, . . . it was Kenn who got the first clubs organized; it was Kenn who has been our National Coordinator, and until now Editor of TAW" (TAW, p. 2).

Some day a historian will study the "growth of volkssporting in America and will search for a common thread in the establishment of new clubs across this" nation. This was the beginning of an article entitled "AVA Clubs Establish Remarkable Growth" appearing on page 3 of The American Wanderer, April 1982. As a volkssporter and part-time historian, I accepted the challenge to undertake this search for the reasons and trends of growth. The article presented two emerging patterns as explanation for the growth of volkssporting in the U.S. One pattern is that of the "carrier" - the geographical move of an individual or family from an established club into virgin territory. . . . Another key factor in the birth of new clubs has been the assistance given by one club to help found an organization in a neighboring town" (TAW, April 1982, p. 3). Other explanations could be the influence of the military in promoting the movement. Also geographical distributions of ethnic patterns may play a small role in the promotion of this exciting leisure time pursuit.

Dr. Coffee's message of 1981 is still true today for the AVA and volkssporting in America. "Americans need to be shown a better, more healthful and practical way to outdoor family sports, recreation and fitness. . . . The varied interests and cultural backgrounds of the American people, as well as an almost confusing array of leisure time opportunities, present any new sports organization . . . with a need to prove itself. . . . Selling new ideas . . . can be . . . difficult in the doing, but uniquely rewarding in the accomplishment" (TAW, July 1981, p. 5). The major challenge facing the AVA and volkssporting today is the same challenge that has existed since 1976, sharing our sport with others, and that starts with introducing friends to this marvelous activity. COME - walk, bike, swim, or ski with us on a regular basis!

The best way to develop an attitude of responsibility toward the future is to cultivate a sense of responsibility toward the past. If we are indifferent to those who went before us, how can we expect to be concerned for the well-being of those who come after us (Carlin, 1990).

We should preserve our heritage and at least slightly improve on the world of volkssporting before passing it on to subsequent generations. President Boyd had the foresight to take definitive action on this history project. He realized that an association, like a country, that knows and appreciates its past will more likely know where it currently stands and where it is headed in the future. Our sport and our association is only as strong as its members. Each one of us plays a critical role in the future of volkssporting by taking every opportunity to be a spokesperson for walking, bicycling, swimming, and cross-country skiing.

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APPENDIX A

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SIGNIFICANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
	1963
1963	The first volkslauf (people's run) was held in Bobingen, Germany near Augsburg.
	1968
Jan. 14, 1968	IVV was formed in Lindau, Germany. Founding nations were Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein
	1976
Apr. 28, 1976	International Peoples Sports-USA (IPS-USA) was duly recognized as a corporation by the state of Texas, Mark White Jr., Secretary of State, with Charter Number 379672. The headquarters was located at 211 West Main St., Fredericksburg, Texas.
Apr. 30, 1976	IPS-USA was accepted into IVV as an Associate Member with Louis Loth first president.
June 12-13, 1976	The first volksmarch in United States was held in Fredericksburg, Texas, with 230-235 participants. Walkfest was organized by Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp and Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg (VVF). VVF was formed as first club in the U.S.A and later became AVA-001.
	1977
June 11-12, 1977	The second sanctioned volksmarch in U.S.A was held in Fredericksburg, Texas, with 840 participants.
	1978
January 1978	The first issue of <u>The American Wanderer</u> was published. A letter was published from Dr. Toth of Dayton, Ohio, to Mr. Hahne, of Texas, about forming a club in Ohio. The first issue of <u>TAW</u> encouraged the scheduling of a Volksmarch Tour to Europe.
Spring 1978	Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp organized a Special Services Department (Specialities) with Ron and Jane Woellholf as first supervisors.
November 1978	The first advertisement appeared on page 8 of <u>TAW</u> regarding volks-sporting specialities.
June 17-18, 1978	The third sanctioned volksmarch in U.S.A was held in Fredericksburg, Texas. Participants included first Amerikaflug, a charter tour group, of 177 from Europe.
June 17, 1978	Informal organizational meeting was held at Andy's Diner on U.S. Route 87 South near Fredericksburg, Texas. The purpose was to discuss need for a constitutional convention whereby IPS-USA could become full member of the IVV.
June 1978	Ohio Wander Freunde (OWF) was founded by Dr. David Toth. OWF was the first IVV and IPS-USA club in Ohio. It later became AVA-002.
Sept. 16-17, 1978	The first Kentucky International Walkfest, organized by Colonel Everett Thomas, was held in Fort Knox.

APPENDIX A - continued

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SIGNIFICANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
Sept. 23, 1978	The first Ohio International Walkfest, sponsored by OWF, was held at Wright-Patterson AFB with 394 participants.
Sept. 28-30, 1978	The first sanctioned swimfest, sponsored by Dayton Riverdale Volkssport Association, AVA-010, was held at Belmont Pool, Dayton, Ohio, with over 200 swimmers.
November 1978	IPS-USA became eligible for full member status in the IVV with the following 5 states having active clubs: Texas, Ohio, Kentucky, California, and Florida.

1979

June 15-17, 1979	The first National Convention of Volkssporters in the U.S.A was held at the Glen Helen Building in Dayton, Ohio, with 18 of 21 IPS-USA clubs represented. (Cliff Hahne, President).
“ “ “	IPS-USA voted to renamed itself the American Volkssport Association (AVA) and a Constitution was ratified.
“ “ “	AVA was established as a member nation of the IVV.
“ “ “	The first U.S.A stamp was used at the Glen Helen Walk.
“ “ “	Fredericksburg, Texas was established as the National Headquarters with Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp as National Coordinator.
June 1979	Lady Bird Johnson, former First Lady of the U.S.A and her daughter, Lynda Johnson Robb, were among the almost 2,000 participants in the Texas Walk Fest.
Aug. 8-27, 1979	AVA offered “Wander trip” to Germany/Belgium.

1980

January 1980	Designs for official logo, seal or crest were requested in the <u>TAW</u> in article entitled “In Search of a Symbol.”
Feb. 2, 1980	The first sanctioned Snow-ski fest was sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Wanderers, AVA-024, in Fraser, Colorado.
February 1980	AVA's participation with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports began.
Apr. 19-20, 1980	The first totally blind person completed a sanctioned AVA-IVV event, sponsored by the Gator Volksmarch Club, AVA-013, in Norfolk, Virginia.
May 1980	The logo was selected from among 41 designs submitted.
June 1980	The first sanctioned Year-Round Event, the AVA Pilgrimage 10K Walk in Fredericksburg, Texas, started at the Sunday House Motel. (<u>AVA Newsletter</u> , Feb. 1981, p. 3 & <u>TAW</u> , Spring 1983, p. 5).
June 14, 1980	Double wedding was held in Fredericksburg, Texas, during Volkssport Festival. Two German Couples were married in ecumenial ceremony performed by volkssporting Reverends Arhelger of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church and Knopp of St. Mary's Catholic Church.
June 16, 1980	The first evening walkfest was conducted in U.S.A. at Comfort, Texas.
August 1980	AVA had 50 clubs in 26 states and one club in the Virgin Islands. (<u>AVA Newsletter</u> , August 11, 1980.)

APPENDIX A - continued

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SIGNIFICANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
November 1980	<u>The American Wanderer</u> began printing names of individuals with their distance and event accomplishments.
1981	
February 1981	A booklet was developed and distributed by the AVA entitled "Volks-sporting: What's it all About". Compiled by Nelson Harborth, AVA VP from material provided by Stuttgart American Wandering Club of Germany.
Apr. 23, 1981	The charter of incorporation of the AVA, Inc., formerly IPS-USA, Inc. was amended by the Secretary of State of Texas. Charter number 379672 was retained.
June 6-7, 1981	United States Air Force "Global" Events began.
June 10-14, 1981	Second AVA National Convention was held in Fredericksburg, Texas.
Sept. 11, 1981	National Headquarters of Volkssporting was moved from Fredericksburg, Texas to Universal City, Texas.
Sept. 26, 1981	The highest volksmarch in AVA history was conducted in Vail, Colorado, beginning at 11,500 feet above sea level.
Oct. 23-24, 1981	The first group of walkers (44) from Mexico participated in the Waring Walkfest sponsored by Comfort's Hill Country Volkssportverein, AVA-023.
Oct. 24-28, 1981	First AVA exhibit at the Annual Congress of the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. (TAW, Fall 1982, p. 1).
Winter 1981	The 50th State Wanderers (Hawaii) became AVA-100.
1982	
June 1982	The Department of the Army published a pamphlet 28-13, entitled <u>The Army Volksmarch Program</u> .
June 25-27, 1982	The first sanctioned event was held in Monterrey, Mexico at Horsetail Falls.
Sept. 19-25, 1982	Department of the Army designated this week as Army Volksmarch Week.
1983	
Mar. 1, 1983	The first full-time Executive Director of AVA was hired (Mr. Leon Childers Jr.).
May 2, 1983	AVA received the Statement of Change of Registered Office or Registered Agent or both by a Texas Domestic Non-Profit Corporation.
June 15-18, 1983	The third AVA Biennial Convention was held in Norfolk, Virginia.
1984	
May 5-6, 1984	The Smokey the Bear Commemorative Event/Walk for America was held in Great Falls, Virginia.
Aug. 10-12, 1984	The first International Volkssporting Decathlon, the Texas 10, was held in San Antonio, Texas and co-sponsored by Sam Ramblers, AVA-099 and Randolph Roadrunners, AVA-044.

APPENDIX A - continued

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SIGNIFICANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
1985	
1985	The AVA Handbook for Club use was developed.
Jan-Feb. 1985	<u>The American Wanderer</u> publication was expanded from quarterly to bimonthly publication.
Mar. 16, 1985	New Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws were developed. The AVA Executive Council restructured the geographical regions from four to nine.
June 12-15, 1985	The fourth AVA Biennial Convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri.
June 1985	Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp, the "Founding Father of Volkssporting in the U.S.A.," became the first inductee in the AVA Hall of Fame.
Sept. 6, 1985	A new Executive Director, Zina Lawrence, was hired.
1986	
May 18, 1986	The largest one-day 10K walk was held in the U.S.A with 3,461 participants. This Lighthouse walk was sponsored by the Southern Maine Volkssport Association, AVA-193, and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Company of Maine.
June 18, 1986	A Gingko tree, a gift from the IVV, was planted in Fredericksburg, Texas, at the Lady Bird Johnson Park.
Aug. 9-10, 1986	The 10th Anniversary of Volkssporting in the U.S.A was celebrated with events conducted in all 9 regions.
Nov. 30, 1986	Volkssporting events were now available in all 50 states with the sponsoring of a sanctioned walk across the state lines of Connecticut and Rhode Island and sponsored by the Southern Maine Volkssport Association, AVA-193.
1987	
March 1987	Fourteen Year-Round Events were sanctioned in the U.S.A.
Apr. 4, 1987	Canadian Volkssport Federation was established.
June 23-27, 1987	The fifth AVA Biennial Convention was held in Tacoma, Washington, at Pacific Lutheran University.
Aug. 24, 1987	The Certificate of Reinstated Articles of Incorporation was filed with the State of Texas.
Oct. 5, 1987	The Internal Revenue Service granted 501 (c)(3) status to the AVA.
Nov. 19, 1987	AVA secured liability insurance policy.
December 1987	AVA was granted copyright and registration approval for AVA logo from the U.S. Patent Office.
Dec. 30, 1987	500th AVA club was sanctioned.

APPENDIX A - continued

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF SIGNIFICANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
1988	
June 8, 1988	AVA EC IV appointed Dr. Charlene Agne-Traub, Ph.D., CHES., as AVA Historian with the task of writing the history of volkssporting in the U.S.A.
July 19, 1988	AVA "Lifesports" brochure was sent to printer. The distribution began in August.
Sept. 24, 1988	Executive Council V approved major change in fee structure for sanctioning events, participation, registration and annual dues to be effective January 1, 1989.
October 1988	Lenexa, Kansas made the AVA an offer of two acres for building a national headquarters. The land was offered to AVA leased at one dollar a year for 99 years.
Nov. 12, 1988	IVV meeting in Brentwood, England, granted AVA exception to IVV rules to allow for continuation of Year-Round Events and to expand to two events per state.
Winter 1988	AVA had sanctioned 41 Year-Round Events. Three volkssporters are the first to have participated in events in all fifty states.
1989	
Jan. 1, 1989	AVA changes in fee structure were implemented. Executive Council V rescinded requirement for YRE and RLDW to pay 35% of net proceeds to AVA.
Jan. 30-Feb.1, '89	Operational Review of National Office took place.
Mar. 31, 1989	AVA President, Tom Boyd, attended Canadian Volkssport Federation 3rd Annual Convention.
May 6, 1989	IVV met in Alzate Bridoza, Como, Italy.
May 19, 1989	U.S. Army joined with the AVA to host first Army Fitness Day Event.
June 20-24, 1989	The sixth AVA Biennial Convention was held in Dayton, Ohio.
June 21, 1989	The first AVA President's Walk was held at Yellow Springs, Ohio, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the formation of the American Volkssport Association out of the IPS-USA.
June 22, 1989	The Dayton convention delegates and visitors saw the debut of the AVA's slide presentation entitled "Volkssporting, What's It All About".
June 23, 1989	AVA undertook a National Survey of Volkssporters. Data collection and analysis was conducted by Gary Traub, Statistician.
June 24, 1989	Dr. Carol Coffee, Ph.D., 2nd President of the AVA, was admitted to the AVA Hall of Fame. Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp was the first inductee. The first time in the History of the AVA that IVV Awards were presented. IVV Merit Pin at the Bronze Level was presented to AVA members: Dr. Carol Coffee, Ph.D., Dr. David Toth, M.D., George Henderson, and Brian Lewie.
July 1, 1989	AVA Executive Council expanded regions from nine to ten.

APPENDIX B

OFFICERS/STAFF of the INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S SPORTS-USA

Personnel who held office between 1976-1979 as noted.

President	Louis Loth (1976-1977), Clifford Hahne (1977-79)
Vice-President-Treasurer	Elbert Hahne, (1977-1979)
-IVV Cards & Stamps	David Toth, (1978-1979)
-Standards & Evals	Eleanor Holmok, (1977-1979)
-Awards & Records	Ronald Ackerman, (1978-1979)
Coordinator	Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp, (1976-1979)
Secretary	Adrienne Stone, (1977-1979)
Special Services	Ron & Jane Woellhof, (1977-1979)
Editor, <u>TAW</u>	Sherman Durst, (1978-1979)

OFFICERS of the AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION

Executive Council I - 1979-1981 (Elected in Dayton, Ohio)

President	David Toth, M.D.
Past President	Clifford Hahne
Regional VPs	-NW Tom Cabot
-SW	Leon Childers
-SE	Nelson Harborth
-NE	John Sneddon
Secretary	John Weaver, resigned; Heinz Johnson
Treasurer	Lester Frantzen
National Directors:	
Awards & Records	Ronald Ackerman and Heinz Johnson
IVV Books & Stamps	George Henderson
Administration-Legal	James Heupel
Standards-Evaluation	Eleanor Holmok
Coordinator/Editor, <u>TAW</u>	Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp
(new clubs & sanctioning)	
National Headquarters	Fredericksburg, Texas

Executive Council II - 1981-1983 (Elected in Fredericksburg, Texas)

President	Carol Coffee, PH.D.
Past President	David Toth, M.D.
Regional VP	-Northeast Brian Lewie
-Northwest	Donald Steele
-Southeast	Robert Hemphill
-Southwest	Jean Fackrell
Secretary & <u>AVA Newsletter</u> Editor	Heinz Johnson
Treasurer	Nelson Harborth
National Directors:	
Awards & Records	Ronald Ackerman
IVV Books & Stamps	John Perkins
Administration-Legal	W. Frank Suhr
Standards-Evaluation	Max Martin
Historian	Glenna Deary from ? to March 6, 1982

Executive Council II continued - 1981-1983 (Elected in Fredericksburg, Texas)

Coordinator/Editor, <u>TAW</u> (new clubs & event sanctioning)	Rev. Mr. Kenn Knopp, until Fall 1981
Executive Director	Leon Childers, March 1-Dec. 31, 1983
National Headquarters	Fredericksburg, TX-until Sept. 1981 Universal City, TX-Sept. 1981-present

Executive Council III - 1983-1985 (Elected in Norfolk, Virginia)

President	Max Martin
Past President	Carol Coffee Ph.D.
Regional VP	Brian Lewie
-Northeast	Donald Steele, Shirley Luther, 1-1-1984
-Northwest	Tommy Mosely
-Southeast	John Perkins, til winter '84, Garry Speir
-Southwest	David Toth, M.D.
Secretary & <u>AVA Newsletter</u> Editor	Nelson Harborth
Treasurer	
National Directors:	
Awards & Records	Jean Fackrell
IVV Books & Stamps	Sheila Taylor
Administration-Legal	Fred Lentz
Standards-Evaluation	Carol Lewie
Editor, <u>TAW</u>	E. Lloyd Murphy
Executive Director	Leon Childers, March 1-Dec. 31, 1983
Acting Executive Director	Nelson Harborth, January 1, 1984-Sept. 1985
National Headquarters	Universal City, TX-Fall 1981-present

Executive Council IV - 1985-1987 (Elected in St. Louis, Missouri)

President	Max Martin
Vice-President	Heinz Johnson
Regional Rep	Robert Holcomb
-Northeast	Chuck Repik
-Northwest	Shirley Luther
-North Central	Sheila Taylor
-Southeast	Tom Cabot
-South Central	Doyle Piland
-Southwest	John Luther/Jean Fackrell
-Texas	Ben Wilkes
-Pacific	George Henderson
-Mid-America	Robert Hemphill
Liaison to Europe	David Toth, M.D.
Secretary & <u>AVA Newsletter</u> Editor	Don Vartanian
Treasurer & Historian	E. Lloyd Murphy
Editor, <u>TAW</u>	Robert Hemphill
AVA Liaison to Europe	Zina W. Lawrence, began Sept. 1985
Executive Director	Universal City, TX-Fall 1981-present
National Headquarters	

Executive Council V - 1987-1989 (Elected in Tacoma, Washington)

President	Tom Boyd
Vice President	Brian Lewie
Regional Rep -Northeast	Julian Bauer
-Northwest	Preston Johnson
-Southeast	Patti Proulx,87-87, Duncan Brantley,88-89
-Southwest	John Burchfield
-North Central	Shirley Luther
-Mid-America	George Henderson
-Texas	Alan Bath
-Pacific	Berta Wilkes
-South Central	Goldie Bawdin
Secretary & <u>AVA Newsletter</u> Editor	Liz Johnson
Treasurer & Historian	Don Vartanian
Historian	Dr. Charlene Agne-Traub, Ph.D., 6/88-present
Liaison to Europe	Heinz Johnson
ED & <u>TAW</u> Editor	Zina Lawrence
National Headquarters	Universal City, TX - Fall 1981-present

Executive Council VI - 1989-1991 (Elected in Dayton, Ohio)

President	Tom Boyd	Ex-Officio: All Committees
Vice President	Brian Lewie	Publicity (Bldg til 3/90)
Regional Rep Northeast	Bill Jenkins	Recognition Awards
Northwest	Preston Johnson	Long-Range Planning
Atlantic	Jackie Mosely	Biennial Convention
Southeast	Duncan Brantley	Corporate Sponsorship
Southwest	Bill Lackey	Short-Range Planning
North Central	Mary Jane Wendt	Merchandise Advisory
Mid-America	Elaine Holobaugh	Tours
Rocky Mtn	J. Burchfield-89	Audits, Stds, Eval
" "	Ron Green-1990	Building, Stds, Eval
Pacific	Berta Wilkes	Safety
South Central	Goldie Bawden	Stamps, Books, Awards
Secretary & AVA Newsletter Ed	Liz Johnson	Constitution/Bylaws
Treasurer	Julian Bauer	member-short/long range plan
Historian	Dr. Charlene Agne-Traub, Ph.D.	
Liaison to Europe	Heinz Johnson & Bob Marston	
ED & <u>TAW</u> Editor	Zina Lawrence til Dec. 31, 1989	
ED & <u>TAW</u> Editor	Dr. Brenda S. Caldwell, Ph.D., Jan.1990-present	
National Headquarters	Universal City, TX-Fall 1981-present	

APPENDIX C

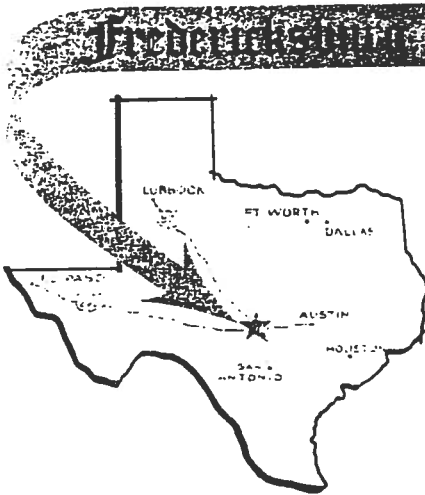
IVV (Internationaler Volkssportverband e. V.) Member Nations (International Federation of Popular Sports, Inc.)

<u>Founding Year</u>	<u>Name of Nation and Acronym</u>
	Founding Nations
Nov. 15, 1970	Deutscher Volkssportverband e.V. (DVV)
“ “ “	Osterreichischer Volkssportverband (OVV)
“ “ “	Volkssportverband Schweiz/Liechtenstein (VSL)
	Other Member Nations
Feb. 6, 1972	Federation Luxembourgeoise de Marche Populaire (FLMP)
Dec. 15, 1973	Dansk March (now Motions) Forbund (DMF)
Dec. 15, 1973	Sudtiroler Volkssportverband (SVV)
March 30, 1974	Federation Belge des Sports Populaires (BVV/FBSP)
March 29, 1975	Federation Francaise des Sports Populaires (FFSP)
March 29, 1975	Norsk Turmarsj Forbund (NTF)
July 3, 1976	Federazione Italiana Amatori Sport Popolari(FIASP)
July 7, 1979	American Volkssport Association (AVA)
October 27, 1979	Sveriges Folkssportorganisation (SFO)
Feb. 16, 1980	Nederlandse Federatie voor Volkssport (NFV)
Nov. 13, 1983	Great Britain Federation (GB)
July 1, 1987	Canadian Volkssport Federation (CVF) (La Federation Canadienne Volkssport-FCV)
July 7, 1988	Finnischer Volkssportverband Suomen Latu ry (FVV)

The IVV Association was established on January 20, 1972, by the Court in Munich, and entered into the Register of Association under No. 7820 at the Office of Records.

In addition to these national member organizations there are countries in which several clubs organized volksmarching events according to IVV regulations. These clubs are direct members of IVV since their countries do not yet have national IVV organizations. The following countries fall into this category: Ireland, Malta, Israel, Spain, Greece, Turkey.

APPENDIX D



FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

Population of the immediate area is around 12,000. Elevation is 1,740 to 2,000 feet above sea level along Walk Fest routes. Low humidity average. Clean air resort area. Excellent for heart patients. White-tail deer, oak trees and granite batholiths abound. Listed as one of the 7 safest cities in the U.S. Famous for "Sunday Houses", Nimitz Naval Museum and Japanese Garden of Peace, most peaches in Texas, and 15 miles from the LBJ Ranch.

SHORT HISTORY OF "FRIEDRICHBURG" -- capital of Texas Germania:

In 1846 European colonists made their way into the Pedernales River Valley of Central Texas and named their town after Prince Friedrich of Prussia, one of the sponsors of the expedition and re-settlement. Their leader, John O. Meusebach, made the first still-unbroken Peace Treaty with the many Indian tribes, which opened Central and West Texas to development.

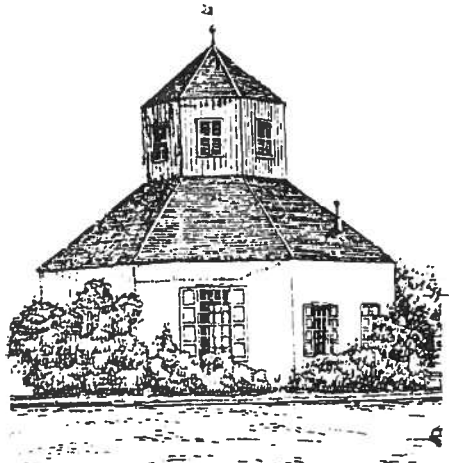
Old World Customs, cookery, quaint buildings and festivals make Fredericksburg interesting and an ideal host for the Walk Fest. Its landscapes and scenery are unexcelled.

Welcome to Fredericksburg
County Seat of Gillespie
Willkommen zu Friedrichsburg
Hauptstadt Kreis Gillespie

WALK FEST STATISTICS

1976 - 230 Walkers 1977 - 840 Walkers 1978 - ?

Your interest and help is needed and sincerely appreciated - in helping this event to grow and spread nationwide.



Vereinskirche, in Pioneer Plaza in the center of town, was once a community church, meeting house, fort -- now a museum and Chamber of Commerce and Tourist office. Open weekdays 9 to 5. Saturdays 9 to noon.

APPENDIX D

Been to a Walkfest lately? Let us hear from you if you've been to an IVV Volksmarch. Kenn Knopp recently returned from Europe where he and his 70 year-old aunt enjoyed 3 Volksmarches: near Leiden, Holland along the North Sea; the Ramstein Roadrunner Volksmarch in Germany; and the Welschnofen, South Tyrol Volksmarch in Italy. He was able to arrange his busy schedule as a Catholic Charismatic Missionary to include a meeting with former IVV president and Mrs. Guntner Hartmetz in Deggen Dorf.

• • • • •

Recognition Pins and Walk Awards Free from International Headquarters.

1. Award pins for taking part in the following number of walks: 10, 30, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, etc.
2. Award pins for kilometers walked: 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, etc.
3. One-piece ribbons and Medals for number of walks: 50, 100, 200; and 2000 kilometers walked.
4. New series of Participation Medals for number of walks: 425, 450, 475, 500, 525, 550, 575, and 600.
5. New series of Participation Medals for Kilometers walked: 4500, 5000, 5550, 6000, 6500, 7000, 7500, 8000.

• • • • •

INTEREST SHOWN IN OHIO! IPS-USA received the following most welcome communication:

Dear Mr. Hahne, I spent the last weekend discussing with Herr Pieper the possibility of establishing an IVV Club here in Dayton, Ohio. I am in the Air Force and spent three years in Germany and was able to participate in 75 Volksmarches. I have begun talking to others here in Dayton about the formation of a club. Do you, by any chance, have any PR material about your walk Fests? I would be especially interested in newspaper accounts and a sample of your flyer which includes the ads placed by local sponsors. If it would not be too much trouble, please send it to me -- David N. Toth, AMC Branch, Box 33543, Dayton, Ohio 45433.



THE AMERICAN WANDERER
P.O. Box 856
Fredericksburg Texas, 78624
U.S.A.

APPENDIX D



WALK FEST

"Wandi" welcomes you to

THE 3RD FREDERICKSBURG TEXAS "WALK FEST", Saturday June 17, 1978 and Sunday June 18, 1978. The event will take place regardless of the weather.

APPROVED by IVV, Internationaler Volkssportverband e.V.---with international headquarters in West Germany and IPS-USA the International Peoples' Sports-USA, Llano Road, Box 2, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

SPONSOR: The Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce and the Fredericksburg Jaycees in cooperation with International Peoples' Sports-USA.

INFORMATION: Official "Walk Fest" headquarters and information center--Vereinskirche--Chamber of Commerce Office, downtown Fredericksburg. "Fredericksburg Texas Walk Fest", Chamber of Commerce, 112 W. Main Street, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624, Telephone: 512/997-3444.

START & FINISH: Rheingold Community Center, 15 miles northeast of Fredericksburg on Ranch Road 1631.

STARTING TIME: Anytime between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. either day. Early time chosen to include Texas Hill Country sunrise and the cooler morning hours.

FINISHING TIME: Final stamp in Participant's card will not be made after 5 p.m. each day.

ELIGIBILITY: All are welcome. Walk at your own pace and pleasure. Visit with others along the way. Participant's Card is to be surrendered for IVV control stamps at the start. Children under 12 are allowed only with adults. Routes will be clearly marked. Pets will be allowed only if leashed. Previous walkers bring IVV card for scoring and records. DO NOT FORGET YOUR IVV CARD!

AWARDS: 7-Mile Walk (11.263Km), silver award; 14-Mile Walk (22.526 Km.), gold award. Persons 55 years or older, children under 10, and disabled persons receive gold awards for either walk or silver award for two control stamps.

SPECIAL PRIZES: The largest pre-registered group with 10 or more; the group traveling the farthest; person and couple, or family, coming the farthest; the oldest woman, the oldest man, and others, will receive special prizes upon completion of their walks.

REFRESHMENTS: Each participant receives 2 free soft drinks during the walk. Food, drinks, back packs, T-shirts, etc., will be sold at various locations. Excellent picnic areas enroute. Fredericksburg is noted for many fine and interesting restaurants. Littering positively prohibited.

PARKING: Ample in and around area of start and finish.

MEDICAL SUPPORT: First Aid, emergency service, and C.B. Patrol will be at the ready.

DISCLAIMER: THE SPONSORS OF THE "WALK FEST" CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS; ACCIDENTS OR INJURY AT ANY TIME.

LODGING: Communicate your exact lodging needs when pre-registering and enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope if reply or confirmation is requested.

PRE-REGISTRATION: The pre-registration fee is \$4.00 per person desiring the souvenir award, official IVV stamp and record. If received by May 15, 1978--\$3.00 for official IVV stamp and record but no souvenir award. Registration fee after May 15, 1978 or on the day of the walk is \$5.00--the award will be mailed later. PRE-REGISTRATION BLANKS MUST INCLUDE EACH PARTICIPANT'S NAME, ADDRESS, DATE-OF-BIRTH, CHOICE OF DAYS, AND WALKING DISTANCE. A pre-registration blank is attached. There is no official entry blank. Be sure to include ALL required information for each participant in your pre-registration correspondence. No refund for no-show. MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: "Fredericksburg Texas Walk Fest". DO NOT SEND CASH.

FRIDAY SPECIAL: OLD FASHIONED OOMPAH DANCE June 16, 1978, 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 Mid-night...**FREE:** All pre-registered walkers. All others--\$2.00 Gillespie County Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. This year's dance will honor the 172 walkers from across Europe already pre-registered!

IPS-USA is an all volunteer, non-profit endeavor to promote outdoor, fresh air and leisure sports in the interest of public health, recreation, fun and fellowship and coordinates the development of member units and Walk Fests across the U.S.A.



IPS-USA is associated with the International Federation of Popular Sports, the Internationaler Volkssport Verband e.V.--IVV, with headquarter in West Germany, and its more than 2,000 member units and Walk Fests.

PRE-REGISTRATION BLANK: (Please Print and repeat information for each walker)

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

I PLAN TO WALK: SATURDAY 7-MILES
 SUNDAY 14-MILES

APPENDIX E

Sanctioned Events in the United States 1976-1979 IPS-USA, Associate Membership in IVV

1976			
001	Tx 01	Texas Volkssport Ass'n-1st WALK	June 12-13,'76
1977			
	Tx 01	Fredericksburg, Texas-2nd WALK	June 1977
1978			
002	OH 01	Ohio Wander Freunde-1st SWIM	Sept 28-30, '78
003	KY 01	Ft. Knox Volksmarch Ass'n-WALK	Sept.16-17, '78
004	TX 02	Fredericksburg, Texas-1st BIKE	Nov. 4, '78
005	CA 01	Monterrey Pen Wanderfreunde-WALK	Aug. 5, '78
006	TX 03	Texas Wanderers-San Antonio-WALK	Nov. 18-19, '78
1979			
007	TX 04	Conroe Kiwanis Club-WALK	Mar31-Apr.1, '79
008	FL 01	Playground Volkssport Ass'n-WALK	Ap. 7-8, '79
009	TX 05	Austin Walkfest-Delta Sigma Pi	Mar 24-25, '79
010	OH 02	Dayton Riverdale Vspt Ass'n-W/S	Ap.14/Feb, '79
011	OH 03	Wispering Oak Wander club-WALK	Mar 5, '79
012	OH 04	Buckeye Wander Freunde-WALK	May 12, '79
013	VA 01	Gator Volksmarch Club-WALK	Ap.28-29, '79
014	NM 01	Holloman Sun-Runners-WALK	Aug. 18-19, '79
015	TX 06	Houston Hikers & Funrunners-WALK	May 6-7, '79
016	NE 01	Neb Wanderfreunde Trailblazers-W	July 4, '79
017	TX 07	Triangle Trekkers-WALK	June 2-3, '79
018	MO 01	Hermann Volkssport Ass'n-WALK	Sept. 22, '79
019	TX 08	Tarrant County Walkers	
020	KY 02	Eagle Wanderers Volksmarch Club-W	
021	MD 01	Washington D.C. Volksmarch Club-W	Oct.27-28, '79
022	WI 01	Osseo Volkssport Club-WALK	
023	TX 09	Hill Country Volkssportverein-W	
024	CO 01	The Rocky Mountain Wanderers	
025	MI 01	Michigan Pathfinders	Sept. '79

APPENDIX F.

RECIPIENTS OF AVA'S TOP RECOGNITION AWARDS (Here's the AVA, Nov. 1989, modified from pp.4-3--4-10.)

HALL OF FAME

Awarded 1985

Kenn Knopp National Coordinator (& Founding Father of Volkssporting in the U.S.A.)

Awarded 1989

Carol Coffee AVA President EC II, Organized Texas Volkssport Ass'n & served as President for two terms, & Committee Member EC V

IVV AWARDS

Awarded 1989

Carol Coffee IVV Bronze Merit Pin
Organized Texas State Ass'n & served two terms as President, AVA President EC II, Committee Member EC V

George Henderson Board of Directors Ramstein Roadrunners, National Director EC I, Committee Member EC III, Mid-America Regional Director EC IV & V

Brian Lewie Club President, AVA Vice Pres. NE-EC II & III, Committee Member EC IV, Vice Pres. EC V

David Toth AVA President EC I, AVA Secretary EC III & IV

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENTS

Awarded 1985

Allison Stafford Virginia Volkssport Association

David Toth President of EC I, Past President EC II, Secretary EC III

Carol Coffee President EC II, Past President EC III

George Henderson Nat'l Dir. Stamps, Books & Banners, EC I, Ohio Volkssport Association

Marco Martinez AVA Liaison for Spanish Speaking Countries

Ronald Ackerman Vice Pres. Awards & Records IPS-USA, Nat'l Dir. Awards EC I & EC II

Nelson Harborth Vice Pres. SE-EC I, Treas.-EC II & EC III

Heinz Johnson Acting Sec. EC I, Sec. EC II, & Global Coordinator

Awarded 1987

Carol Slacum Ohio Volkssport Association

Robert Wright Virginia Volkssport Association

Awarded 1989

George Henderson Comm. Member EC III, Reg. Dir.-EC IV & EC V

Shirley Luther Vice Pres. NW-EC III, North Central Reg. Dir.-EC IV & EC V

Tom Mosely Vice President Southeast EC III

Bernie Slacum Ohio Volkssport Association
(Posthumously)



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